Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Give PLO Weapons to Lebanese Army

JN1007162591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Organization of Communist Action in Lebanon, who mediated between the PLO and the Lebanese Government, affirmed in Beirut today that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has decided to present the Lebanese Army with the PLO's heavy weapons in Lebanon. After meeting Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, Ibrahim said: I informed the Lebanese leaders of the decision communicated to me by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine—namely, to present the medium- and heavy-caliber weapons of the Palestinians, after collecting them, to the Lebanese Army as a g ft

'Arafat on 'New Explosion' Caused by U.S.

LD1007185291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, announced that the U.S. perseverence in double dealing with international legitimacy and decisions and the continuation of its support to the Israeli occupation, settlements, and crimes will lead the region toward the brink of a new explosion, one which will hit everybody and everybody's interests. Brother president Abu-'Ammar stressed in the speech, which he addressed to the masses of our Palestinian people today on the occasion of the 44th month of the intifadah, that Jerusalem cannot be subjected to bargaining and blackmail and that the unity of our people, cause, and national rights are sacred things which we will defend.

Brother Abu-'Ammar warned that the PLO's ignorance and the Palestinian rights reflect a lack of seriousness vis-a-vis peace and reflects the falseness of the U.S. orientation and bias in favor of Israeli aggression and occupation. Brother President Abu-'Ammar pointed out the PLO's concern regarding setting out the Lebanese legitimate sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and stressed that this issue must be linked to guaranteeing the security of our camps. He said that we refuse to allow our camps living under the threat and spectre of new massacres. Brother President Abu-'Ammar urged the masses of our Palestinian people in the occupied territories to step up the fighting, the confrontation, and the intifadah and to set up popular, national, and benevolent committees. He stressed that our people, who called and practiced the intifadah for 44 months, will surely be victorious.

PFLP Claims Responsibility for Attack at Rafah

NC1007161691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has claimed responsibility for a military operation near Rafah, close to the Egyptian border. In a statement issued in Beirut, the PFLP said one of its groups operating inside the occupied homeland threw a grenade at a surveillance post manned by enemy soldiers on the Palestinian-Egyptian border. A number of Zionist soldiers were killed or wounded in the attack.

'Arafat on Situation of Palestinians in Kuwait

LD0907222491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said after his meeting with President Mugabe that he and the Zimbabwean president discussed the consequences and impact of the Gulf crisis on the Palestinian cause, the Arab homeland, Africa, and the states of the Third World.

The brother president reiterated the Palestinian leadership's commitment to the al-Ta'if agreement, which covers the deployment of the Lebanese Army and the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. He also expressed his pride in the ability of the Palestinians to avoid confrontation with the Lebanese Army. He said: Arab weapons should be directed at the soldiers of the Israeli occupation.

Concerning the situation of the Palestinians in Kuwait, brother leader President Abu-'Ammar said that it is the right of the Palestinian people to put this question to the world's conscience and to leaders of the Western states, especially U.S. President George Bush: Does the liberation of Kuwait mean the killing of Palestinian children? In this connection, he pointed out that the Palestinian leadership has requested the United Nations, the Arab League, and other parties to invervene to stop the ugly repression to which the Palestinians and some Arab expatriates in Kuwait are being exposed.

Algeria

Islamic Front Leaders Charged in Recent Unrest

LD1107041291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Seven charges have officially been made against Abassi Madani, the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] spokesman, and Ali Belhadj, Ali Djadi, and Abdelkader Boukemkem, members of the FIS Majlis Ashura [Consultative Council], by the examining magistrate of the Blida military court, said Me. Khelili Mahmoud, one of the defendants' lawyers, today. They are accused of aggresion and inciting people to take arms against the authority of the state, calling for fratricidal clashes and sabotage throughout the national territory, leading and organizing a movement of rebellion against the authority of the state, setting up armed forces without prior authorization from legal authorities, the deliberate drawing of crowds to undermine the functioning of basic institutions of the national economy, distribution of propaganda pamphlets likely to harm the national interest, kidnapping, illegal confinement, and torture of agents of the forces of order. Me Khelili has expressed the hope that the procedure and laws guranteeing human rights will be respected. He also said the inquiry has not yet started, only the preliminary inquiry has so far been undertaken. Concerning the place and condition of detention of the FIS leaders, Me Khelili and another lawyer said the detainees are in ordinary places and not in cells.

Oumma Head on 'Conspiracy' Against Islamic Front

LD1007145991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Oumma Party head Benyoucef Bankhedda held a news conference this morning at the Safir Hotel during which he spoke about his party's stance toward the development in the country. Colleague Mohsin Slimani attended the conference and prepared this report for us:

[Begin Slimani recording] The Oumma movement considers, Benkhedda said, that democracy is not being respected, and that the detaining of Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj is a violation of human rights. Benyoucef Benkhedda devoted a large part of the conference to clarifying the stance of the Oumma movement toward, as he said, the authorities activities against the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. He said: We cannot speak of dialogue and democracy under the shadow of the state of siege and the campaign of arrests against the Islamists, especially their leaders. In this respect, Benkhedda questioned the real motives behind the continuation of this method of dealing with recognized political parties.

Concerning the conflicts taking place inside the FIS, Benkhedda limited himself to saying that the Oumma movement endeavored, and is endeavoring, to unify the ranks of the Islamists, without showing how this alliance is taking place. He also said: We cannot imagine building a democracy in Algeria without the real presence of the Islamic movement which, he said, has become the victim of a conspiracy from the outside. Islam, he added, constitutes the only alternative in the wake of the collapse of communism and the crisis of capitalism.

In conclusion, Enyoucef Benkhedda recalled the demands of his movement, which are the lifting the state of siege; the release of political prisoners; the reemployment of those who had been on strike; the compensation of the victims of the recent campaigns; and the use of the media by all the parties without exception. [end recording]

Islamic Front Member on 'Leadership Crisis'

LD1107050991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] The question of a leadership crisis in the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] is the talk of the privy and the commons these days, especially after cancellation of the news conference called for by said Guechi, chairman of the Front's Organization and Coordination Committee. That is the event which was characterized by skirmishes after the intervention of some rival FIS elements who called Said Guechi's group traitors. To clarify the circumstances surrounding the issue of FIS leadership, we contacted Said Guechi and held an interview with him in which he answered a host of questions. Mr. Guechi emphasized that, contrary to what has been said, the group that intervened to prevent the news conference, which he had called, does not belong to the FIS grass roots. Rather, it belongs to an Islamic current which is neither of the Hamas movement, nor of the Ennahda movement, but he did not specify its color.

On the question of FIS representation, Mr. Said Guechi said that he had in his possession an official letter from Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. This is what it says, as he put it.

[Begin Guechi recording] Yes, we have power of attorney. After we met yesterday with some national newspapers, after the brothers who objected to the convening of a news conference had departed, we indeed produced an official document signed by the two revered cheikhs, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. If you like, I will read it. It was in safe hands, in the hands of the revered Cheikh who is a member of the National Choura [Consultative] Council, Cheikh Ben Youcef Kada, imam of the Oumma mosque in Bologhine. We were not aware of this will. It reached us only yesterday.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thursday, 24 Dhu al-Hijjah, 1411 corresponding to 6 June [as heard] 1991. We urge our brothers, members of the Choura council and heads of the executive wilayas offices all over Algeria, whatever may be the circumstances, to appoint a leadership for the FIS to continue its message in case of the death, detention, or arrest of the leadership elements of the FIS. We also urge the new leadership to continue to follow the true Islamic path,

which is based on the Koran and the Sunna, and to keep the unity of ranks, the unity of the people, and the unity of the country. Almighty God said: Verily, we have directed the people of the book before you, and you (o Muslims) to fear God. Almighty God also said: And fall into no disputes, lest you lose heart and your power depart.

Signed: Abassi Madani, Ali Belhadj. [end recording]

Mr. Said Guechi also mentioned in his interview with us that he had received a letter from Ali Belhadj calling on him to withdraw the resignation he had submitted earlier. He also denied he had any relation with the group of Fekih, Merrani, and Imam. The full text of the interview will be broadcast on tomorrow's first bulletin at 0700, God willing.

Commentary on Government Program's Implementation

LD1007143691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Commentary by Barhoum Boudjouma]

[Text] Following a series of discussions and addresses crowned with the prime minister's reply to the deputies' questions, the deputies of the National People's Assembly endorsed the program of Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Ghozali with an overwhelming majority.

The deputies' endorsement of the transitional government was interpreted as a proof of confidence and good intentions, hoping that the government will carry out its mission, especially as the country is witnessing a difficut situation and is going through a critical stage in which it needs the resources and abilities of all its sons to get out of the crisis.

Among the most prominent priorities awaiting the government after obtaining the confidence of the parliament is to start establishing the bridges of dialogue and restoring confidence to the people.

The language of dialogue means, among other things, moving the country from an emergency to a normal state free of all the faults which still characterize the political grounds and social arena.

The secretions of this stage are a natural product of a changing society which is taking form. It is a society burdened with crises and worn out with life's anxieties, a society which is fed up with promises, but has not lost hope in the solutions.

Evidently the transitional government has been formed under special circumstances and will not be able to immediately find magic solutions to all the problems. However, the government could rectify the course and adjust the situation in a way which would achieve social balance and secure economic growth.

To speak of the government's tasks and role under circumstances such as ours would be beneath the objectives that have been determined as long as all national forces do not contribute to the process of stimulation, and do not effectively participate in rectifying the situation and repairing the fault.

Gambling on the chances of success remains difficult but not impossible as long as the conditions are available, the means are prepared, and the resources provided. However, this also depends on an important factor and vital element, which is the restoration of confidence and reassurance. This is because when we speak of capabilities, we find that these are available and when we talk about energy we find that it is present. The problem is how to direct and exploit these and make them effective and productive. Thus, the issue before the government is basically how to find a way out of the crisis that is still wearing down the bones of the nation, and constituting a serious challenge to any government program.

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali has stressed the need for economic reforms that would be feasible within the real material and human resources of our economy. He also insisted on the need to restore state control over the stategic planning of the economy.

Trials Proceed in Public Order Cases

LD0907091591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] The Public Prosecutor's Office in Algiers announced yesterday that 100 people accused of riotous assembly, illegally carrying weapons, and wearing military clothes, were brought before the courts of the Wilaya district of the capital between 25 May and 25 June. It pointed out that most of the defendants were unemployed youths aged 18 to 25, and that about 50 of them appeared before the court last Tuesday, and 20 appeared yesterday. It is expected that 40 others will be brought to trial on Tuesday.

In its statement, the Algerian Public Prosecutor's Office denied rumors that the sentences against some defendants were light. It pointed out that the law stipulates the sentence of two months to one year imprisonment with regard to the accusation of riotous assembly, and from 15 days to three months with a fine estimated at 5,000 Algerian dinars with regard to those carrying weapons. The Public Prosecutor's Office pointed out also that the courts will suspend their investigation of civil cases on 15 July, the end of the judicial year, whereas they will continue their activities as far as the other cases are concerned.

The Public Prosecutor's Office of the Chief Justice Council reported yesterday that 18 people who were arrested in Chlef during the recent events accused of riotous assembly, mutiny, and aggression against public security personnel in addition to sabotage of public

property, were released. After the sentence was pronounced, the Public Prosecutor's Office presented an appeal in the case.

Justice, Freedom Association Meets With Press

LD0907222191 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Algiers, 09/07/91 (APS)—The president of the Association for Justice and Freedom (AJL), Ali Amar Laouar declared, during a press conference held on Monday in Algiers, that Algeria could go out of the crisis only through "the renewal of the People's National Assembly [APN] and the consecration of democracy".

"The emergency today, is to restore stablity and civil peace, that only the renewal of the APN is capable to ensure", the AJL president insisted, while wondering on the government programme which according to him "centered everything on the economic part and reforms" and has not given enough importance to the question of the holding of anticipated legislative elections. For Laouar, the democratic game "is not respected". "The non respect of the Constitution and the violation of laws of the Republic are not the fact of only one party, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)", he said, adding that "one was, after the Constitution of 1989, to dissolve all the institutions springing from the 1976 Constitution (...)". Asked about the AJL position as to the arrest of Abassi Madani and Ali Benhadj, Laouar answered that his party did not possess all the data and did not know all the exact nature of accusations brought against these persons. Nevertheless, he noted "prison is necessary for those who violate laws".

Bendjedid Receives Tunisian Defense Minister

LD0807224991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] Today at the Presidency, President Chadli Bendjedid received the personal envoy of the Tunisian president, Defense Minister Mr. Habib Boulares, who handed him a letter from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

After leaving the office of President Chadli Bendjedid, Mr. Boulares told correspondents that he had conveyed a letter of brotherhood and concord from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the head of state. He added that this meeting came as part of the constant dialogue between the two countries.

The Tunisian defense minister pointed out that we should, as he put it, intensify the efforts of cooperation and work together to build an Arab Maghreb in the context of security, quiet, and peace. The Tunisian special envoy stressed the need to build a Maghreb dominated by democracy, freedom, and development.

Egypt

Mubarak Accuses Shamir, Says Time 'Running Out'

NC1007204291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] London, 10 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has warned that time is running out for a political settlement in the Middle East, indicating that the United States will be preoccupied with presidential elections by the end of this year.

In an interview with the BBC broadcast today, President Mubarak criticized Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and accused him of obstructing peace talks.

President Mubarak explained that Israel is pursuing two courses simultaneously. It talks about peace, but at the same time it builds more settlements in the occupied Arab territories. This behavior runs counter to the principle of land for peace, and makes the Arabs lose hope in the prospect of achieving a political settlement.

President Mubarak said that the United States bears a great responsibility to support the peace process. He indicated that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will soon reply to the letter he received from U.S. President George Bush in June, which asked him to make concessions so that a peace conference could get under way.

President Mubarak noted that President al-Asad has doubts about Israel's position and does not trust official Israeli statements.

President Mubarak noted that if peace is achieved, Israel will be the main beneficiary. He warned, however, that if the situation in the Middle East deteriorates, Europe will be the first to suffer.

President Mubarak reiterated his call for eliminating weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East. He indicated that when the United States speaks about about disarmament in the region, this includes Israel and its nuclear weapons, even if Washington does not say so publicly.

Foreign Minister on Paris Arms Control Statement

NC1007134491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that his ministry is currently assessing the results of the meeting of representatives from the permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as the statement issued at the end of the meeting which called for eliminating weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

The foreign minister added that on the basis of its initial review of the statement, Egypt believes that it contains several positive points, particularly the call to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

Musa said that Egypt sees this a good step on the road to arms control in the region in which all its states are treated equally.

The foreign minister also asserted that arms control efforts should concentrate on nuclear weapons.

Musa, Baker Meeting in Greece 'Confirmed'

JN1007143891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] An official source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has confirmed that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will meet his U.S. counterpart James Baker during U.S. President George Bush's visit to Greece on 20 July. The Cairo paper, AL-AHRAM, said today that the Egyptian foreign minister and his U.S. counterpart will discuss the situation in the region in light of the important decisions to be made by the U.S. President following the Syrian response. AL-AHRAM affirmed that Syria has actually prepared the response.

AL-AHRAM adds that the Syrian response will be in agreement with the Egyptian viewpoint that was communicated to the U.S. President on 13 June. The paper adds that Cairo and Damascus believe that the success of the peace conference lies in the continuation of the conference sponsored by the United States and the USSR, with the participation of the United Nations, in an effective role as the representative of international legitimacy. The conference will concentrate on the implementation of the resolutions issued by this legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

Foreign Minister Departs for Saudi Arabia

NC1007133691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1242 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Saudi Arabia this afternoon for a visit that will last several hours.

The foreign minister is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

Editorial Says Israel's Shamir Under Siege

NC1007112091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0916 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I has said that the siege is tightening around Israeli Prime Minister Yitshaq Shamir with each passing day. He cannot stop building settlements for election and party reasons, but at the same time does not want to isolate Israel from the international community.

The paper adds that, in light of this siege, Shamir will be faced with several choices. He can either stall the peace process and refuse to discuss substantial issues by dwelling on procedural matters connected with the international conference, who will convene it, and who will participate in it, or he can distract the international community and regional parties from the settlements and the peace process by focusing their attention on other issues. For example, Shamir could launch an air attack on southern Lebanon, allege that Algeria possesses nuclear weapons, or that Syria possesses surface-to-surface missiles.

The paper asserts that the siege on Shamir began to tighten further after Egypt, the United States, and the United Nations condemned his government's settlement policy, and it became clear that there was an international consensus on this issue.

In conclusion, the paper says that eventually this will drive Shamir to make one of two choices, either to respond to the call for peace or to give up his post to another person capable of dealing with the reality of the situation. It says he must do this to avoid undermining the region's readiness to enter the new world order.

Israel's Position Deemed 'Provocative,' 'Defiant'

NC1107072491 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] In its editorial today, headlined "A Futile Effort and an Unyielding Position," AL-AKHBAR writes: The provocative and defiant attitude Israel is trying to maintain regarding its Jewish settlement policy indicates that there is not much hope in talks the Tel Aviv leaders might consent to hold with Arabs and Palestinians. Therefore, any negotiation should focus on the return of the occupied territories. This should be the first and main point on the agenda of any meeting between the two sides, everything else is secondary. If Israel over and over again says that it will not abandon one inch of Arab land, regardless of what happens in any negotiations, even before an agreement is reached on holding talks, why are the United States and some European states trying to persuade Israel to sit down at the negotiating table? The outcome of such a meeting is already known.

The paper says that matters have reached the point of total Israeli disregard of international laws and UN resolutions, and that any new effort to secure Tel Aviv's agreement to yield and sit down with a Palestinian-Arab delegation is a waste of time. Shamir and his colleagues are trying to waste time so they can continue to implement their malicious plans to usurp Arab lands and impose a fait accompli. The paper says that U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker must fully realize that good intentions are not enough, and that the policy of appeasement and encouragement does not work with people like the Israeli rulers.

Kuwait

National Council Elects Members, Leaders

LD0907165191 London KUNA in Arabic 1242 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 9 Jul (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti National Council elected Mr. Talal Mubarak al-'Ayar to the post of secretary and Mr. Jawad 'Ali al-Matruk as controller [Muraqib] of the Council, which held its first session today. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of the session, Mr. Muhammad al-Askari, the council's secretary general, read the amiri decrees concerning the amendments of the Council's duties; fixing the National Assembly's election date in October 1992; and specifying the venues for the national council session at the old National Assembly building.

He also read the amiri decree appointing five ministers to the Council. They are Information Minister Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub; Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud; Minister of State for Rural Affairs Dr. Ibrahim Majid al-Shahin; Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman; and Minister of Public Health Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Fawzan. [passage omitted]

Salim Comments on Damascus Declaration, Security

LD0907205491 London KUNA in Arabic 1057 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 8 Jul (KUNA)—In a statement published here today, Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah stressed that the Damascus Declaration is a part of Arab solidarity, which supplements the Arab league Charter and the joint Arab defense agreement. Shaykh Salim rejected any contradiction between the Damascus Declaration and the Arab League Charter. He stressed: It will become an example that will be followed in the Arab world.

In a comprehensive statement to AL-FAJR AL-JADID, Shaykh Salim said: If the Iraqi regime and its cronies had amassed those missiles and weapons in the support of Arabs, you would have found us standing by them now... [kuna ellipses] However, they deserve what they are getting and more, since they have used them to kill Arabs and Muslims. He supported the pressures exerted by the United Nations and world countries on the Iraqi regime with the aim of destroying all the weapons of mass destruction it possesses.

Regarding the role of Iran in security arrangements in the region, Shaykh Salim stressed the need for finding a means of dialogue and consultation with each other so that each one of us will all be aware of an knows his role, and what we have to undertake regarding each other. He pointed out the good neighborly relations between the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Iran.

In his statement, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister commented on the issue of drawing the border between Iraq and Kuwait. He explained that the United Nations has set up a committee whose task is to examine and draw the border between the two countries. He noted that the committee is still playing its role and that its meetings are continuing with a view to implement the Security Council and UN resolutons. He said: We are following the committee's work closely. He expressed hope that this task will be accomplished quickly. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives PRC Chairman Li Peng

LD1007152691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Excerpt] In the Al-Salam Palace this afternoon King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, received His Excellency Li Peng, chairman of the PRC State Council, and his accompanying delegation.

The custodian of the two holy mosques and Li Peng held talks at the royal court in the Al-Salam Palace this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive

Received by King Fahd

LD1007194991 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa delivered the message to the custodian of the two holy mosques when the king received him and the delegation accompanying him in his office at the royal court at al- Salam Palace today. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian foreign minister arrived in Jeddah earlier today. [passage omitted]

Confers With Defense Minister

LD1007200591 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and inspector general, received His Excellency 'Amr Musa, foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the delegation accompanying him, in his office at the royal court at al-Salam Palace today. [passage omitted]

250 Killed as Nigerian Plane Crashes Near Jeddah

LD1107103391 Hamburg DPA in German 0940 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Jeddah (DPA)—Today's air crash of a Nigerian aircraft carrying Islamic pilgrims from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia has claimed the lives of at least 250 people. The German consul general in Jeddah, Goetz Schmidt-Bremme, told DPA that the DC-8 plane took off this morning on a return flight to Nigeria. There were around 250 people on board, but it is unclear as to whether this figure includes the crew of the plane. The German diplomat reported: The plane took off at 08.20, but then seemed to have engine trouble. The engines were said to be on fire. It turned back to reach the airport in Jeddah, however it crashed before it could make it to the airport.

The passengers had completed the Hajj, the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, not far from Jeddah, which every Muslim should make at least once in his lifetime. It is said there are no survivors.

The Saudi Arabian authorities have as yet made no statement on the plane crash.

Kurdish Leaders Propose Compromise on Karkuk

NC1007153091 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, July 10 (AFP)—Kurdish leaders have given Baghdad a list of proposals aimed at reaching an accord on the future of Kurdistan with a possible compromise on oil-rich Karkuk, a source close to the Kurdistan Front said here on Wednesday. The Front is a coalition of leading Kurdish opposition movements, notably Ma'sud Barzani's Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) and Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). The list was included in a six-part memorandum submitted July 6 to Iraqi Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi by Kurdish leaders in the northern town of Irbil.

Three Kurdish demands addressed the future status of Karkuk, which the Kurds claim as their historic capital, democracy in Iraq and security in the autonomous Kurdish region. The final three points responded to demands from Baghdad concerning the surrender of heavy weapons, Kurdish radio stations and the Kurdish movements' contacts abroad.

"Our leaders have returned from Shaqlawah and are ready to go to Baghdad immediately to sign a definitive accord if President Saddam Husayn gives his approval," the source said. Kurdistan Front leaders had been discussing the terms of an accord with Iraq in the Kurdish city of Shaqlawah for several weeks.

Meanwhile Iran's English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES reported Wednesday that Baghdad was mediating between Kurdish opposition groups and the Mojahedin-e Khalq which had clashed several times since the mojahedin joined Iraqi troops to crush the Kurdish rebellion in March. The mojahedin are an Iraqi-based Iranian opposition group. The Kurdish parties are calling for the mojahedin's withdrawal from Kurdistan, but Iraq has not yet agreed to the request, the paper said.

Kurds To Hold 'Highest-Level' Talks in Baghdad

NC1007162491 Paris AFP in English 1611 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Shaqlawah, Iraq July 10 (AFP)—A Kurdish delegation left here Wednesday for Baghdad where it is due to pursue the "highest-level" talks with the Iraqi Government, Kurdish sources said. Democratic Party of Kurdistan chief Mas'ud Barzani is heading the delegation composed of the seven other parties of the Kurdistan Front, including Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. It is due to spend several days in the capital, the sources said.

Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani met Iraqi Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi Saturday in Irbil, Iraqi Kurdistan, where they presented their "counter-proposals" on Iraq's constitutional plans. This meeting took place following several days of meetings among members of the Kurdistan Front in Shaqlawah, where its headquarters is located, to discuss the first stage of talks between Mr. Barzani and Iraqi authorities in Baghdad. Those talks lasted 40 days.

Leader Arrives for Talks

NC1007181991 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1755 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Brother [name indistinct] Jalal, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, is visiting Baghdad today in confirmation of the unified stand of the Kurdish ranks and the Kurdistan Front. His visit coincides with the arrival of the Kurdistan Front delegation in Baghdad under brother Mas'ud Barzani to continue the ongoing dialogue with the Iraqi Government to reach an agreement on democracy, the constitution, and the Kurdish people's rights. Brother Jalal will return to Kurdistan, while the delegation will remain in Baghdad to continue the dialogue with the government delegation.

The Voice of the People of Kurdistan takes this opportunity to express its hope that brother Jalal, secretary general of our union, has a good journey and that the brother leader of the Kurdistan Front and the brother members of the delegation are successful in their endeavors to reach an agreement that satisfies the sons of Iraq in general and the sons of Kurdistan in particular.

Delegation Arrives in Baghdad

JN1107064591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—The Iraqi newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that a delegation of the Kurdistan Front has arrived in Baghdad to continue the dialogue to promote the Kurdistan autonomy experience. The paper says today that the delegation comprises Mas'ud Barzani, Jalal Talabani, and a number of Front officials.

U.S. Airspace 'Violations' From 8-9 July

JN1007164091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Iraq lodged a protest with the United Nations today concerning violations of Iraqi airspace by U.S. warplanes. This came in a memorandum addressed to the world body from Iraq's permanent representative to the UN. In the memorandum, the Iraqi delegate said that U.S. air activity over Iraqi airspace for 8-9 July 1991 totaled 33 air sorties made up of 16 two-plane formations and a single one-plane sortie. The delegate added that the planes flew at 700-900 km per hour at medium altitudes. The memorandum went on to say that the enemy planes flew mainly over Irbil, Mosul, and Rawandoz on missions of surveillance and harassment.

9-10 July Activity Reported

JN1007203091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] U.S. aircraft have continued their violations of Iraqi airspace on missions of surveillance and provocation. In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent UN representative indicated that U.S. air activity inside Iraqi territory for 9-10 July totaled 31 sorties, made up of 13 two-plane formations and five individual sorties. He noted that the U.S. aircraft mainly overflew Mosul, Irbil, Tall 'Afar, Sinjar, Dahuk, Zakho, and Dukan at speeds of 800-900 km per hour at low and medium altitudes.

Destruction of Military Supply Train Reported

NC1107063791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] As a continuation to the heroic operations being carried out by our valiant revolutionaries, a train carrying military equipment and supplies on the al-Basrah-[name indistinct] line was destroyed, informed sources reported. The source said that a large number of the oppressive regime's followers were left dead or wounded. It has been learned that the destroyed military equipment and supplies were destined to reinforce and arm the mercenary forces and attack the uprising's supporters and revolutionaries. However, the heroic operation of our revolutionaries destroyed their sick dreams and proved that the will of our rebellious people will not weaken until the criminal regime is brought down. God grants victory.

Minister Discusses Aid With UN Relief Official

JN1007140091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1256 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Dr. 'Umid Mulhat Mubarak, minister of labor and social affairs, met with with Bronk Rinalski, director general of world relief at the UN World Food Program [name and title as received], and discussed areas of cooperation with the world organization as well as the means of providing food and humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the effects of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression on Iraq and the economic blockade imposed on it. The director general of world relief paid tribute to the cooperation existing between the world organization and Iraq.

Minister of Industry Confers With UN's Aga Khan

JN1007141491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1309 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and minerals [ministry name as received], discussed with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive envoy of the UN secretary general, the humanitarian aid and the basic needs required by the ministry. Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan expressed understanding of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals' need to continue to produce electricity and manufacture medicines, whose production capacity has dropped by 70 percent, in addition to the ministry's needs to manufacture foods, especially dairy products which suffer from a shortage of wrapping material and raw materials, and to operate water distillation plants.

Foreign Minister Meets Khan

JN1007162591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1626 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn this evening received Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive envoy of the UN secretary general. During the meeting, they discussed the UN humanitarian program in Iraq and Iraq's cooperation with the UN efforts to extend humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people. They also discussed the dangerous human effects resulting from the UN Security Council resolutions that imposed an economic blockade on Iraq.

Assembly Speaker Receives Tunisians, Jordanians

JN1007142591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1134 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has praised the Tunisian pan-Arab support for Iraq during the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression. During a meeting today with Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, secretary general of the Tunisian Progressive Socialist Assembly, and a number of the party's Political Bureau members, he said that the Iraqis are now reconstructing what was destroyed by the aggression despite the economic blockade imposed on them. Ahmed Nejib Chebbi expressed his pride in Iraq's steadfastness in confronting the aggression.

During a meeting with the delegation of the Popular Jordanian Committee in Support of Iraq led by Chairman Amin Shuqayr, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that Jordan's position, which constituted the true depth of Iraq, is an expression of the true and sincere pan-Arab nature of the brothers in Jordan regarding the reactions to challenges to the glorious Arab nation and its future. Amin Shuqayr praised the Iraqis' distinguished efforts to reconstruct what was destroyed by the aggression.

Amman Embassy Vice Consul Cited on Visa Terms

JN1007032592 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Jul p 2

[By Samih Hamamdah in Amman]

[Text] Mr. Talal Husayn, vice consul at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman, has told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the Iraqi Government recently introduced entry visas for all Arabs and non-Arabs in certain extraordinary circumstances.

He said the Iraqi Embassy in Amman issues entry visas to Jordanian citizens free of charge and within 24 hours.

He said due to the large number of visa applicants, the embassy has prepared everything necessary to process visa requests. The consulate issues 600-700 visas daily, he added.

He pointed out that visas are granted to the following categories:

—residents of Iraq.
—those with official work contracts in Iraq.
—drivers of trucks and licensed passenger automobiles.
—Jordanian and other Arab students attending Iraqi universities.

Mr. Husayn explained that only the abovementioned categories can obtain visas to enter Iraq. He said the embassy is busy processing all visa applications daily without delays.

Minister Receives Support Message From Sudan

JN1007145291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Sudan has affirmed its rejection of the aggression being carried out against Iraq by the United States and its allies. Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmad Husayn has received a message from Sudanese Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul in reply to two messages the former sent to the latter on the allied troops' military intervention in nothern Iraq under flimsy pretexts. The Sudanese foreign affairs minister said that since the onset of the brutal aggression on Iraq, Sudan has warned against the serious policy and conduct of the Western alliance, which used all international forums, including the UN Security Council and the United Nations, to bring about the destruction of Iraq's economic and military capabilities and the disintegration of its social fabric, which is made up of various homogeneous ethnic groups.

The Sudanese minister added: The efforts of the United States and its allies to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs in a manner that jeopardizes Iraq's territorial integrity and the unity of its people and undermines its independence and sovereignty merely reflect a desperate move that did not escape the Iraqi people's attention. Consequently, the Iraqi people confronted this move decisively and courageously and managed to cope with it through faith and a high level of patriotism.

'Ali Ahmad Sahlul urged the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council members to take urgent and effective measures to halt the flagrant imperialist intervention in Iraq's internal affairs which contravenes the UN Charter and international laws and norms as well.

Health Ministry To Participate in Damascus Seminar

JN1007150191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—The Ministry of Health will participate in the Arab seminar on health and environmental administration to be held on 14 July in Damascus. The two-day seminar will discuss many topics, including Arab strategy for health development. The ministry is represented by a delegation that includes the director of the Health and Environmental Protection Department and the director of the Environmental Protection Center.

SAIRI Leader Comments on Situation in South

NC1007145791 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has said that the coming month of Muharram will be characterized by revolts against the defeated tyrant, particularly in the southern towns. Noting that there has been no substantial change in the situation in the south, al-Hakim said that international pressure had, nevertheless, forced the tyrant to cancel his planned military operations against the refugees in the marshlands. He added that revolutionaries and refugees alike continued to be subjected to arrest, torture, and execution, and noted that there are 200,000- 300,000 refugees in the southern marshlands.

Paper Comments on 'Aggression' in Country

JN1107090391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says that challenge, resistance, and determination to build and reconstruct what the aggression destroyed constitute the most effective response to the aggression and a certain guarantee of the victory of our national will and free options.

In an article today, the paper says the spirit of resistance and the will for reconstruction has kept growing uninterruptedly despite all the difficult circumstances resulting from the continued unjust economic blockade against Iraq and its people. The Iraqis are once again recording a unique epic that befits them and their known good traits.

The paper says that the aggression and the subsequent chapters in the rancorous conspiratorial scheme have made the Iraqis' spirit of resistance and challenge burst forth. The expression of genuine Iraqi patriotism now lies in the maximum unleashing of creative work commensurate with the major goals of building and reconstructing all that the war and the U.S. aggressive machine destroyed. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Says Hizballah Not Disarmed

TA1007180691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Excerpts] During today's Knesset debate on terrorist attacks from Lebanon, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that the Lebanese Army has not done anything to disarm the Hizballah and that there is no sign of the withdrawal of the 40,000 Syrian soldiers in Lebanon. He asserted that the Lebanese Army's real test would be in foiling the terrorists' attacks across Israel's northern border. [passage omitted]

Arens said that Syrian President al-Asad was successful in doing in Lebanon what Saddam Husayn was unable to accomplish in Kuwait. With Syria's backing, the Lebanese Army has disarmed the militias and is now disarming the terrorists. Arens claimed, however, that there are no signs of any operation against the Hizballah organization, which has increased its operations, or of any effort to get the 40,000 Syrian soldiers out of Lebanon.

[Begin Arens recording] The Israeli Government is determined not to allow any situation that could again endanger the lives of Israeli citizens. We welcome any effort to disarm the terrorist organizations, but the real test—which has not been confronted—is the foiling of the attempts of the Shiite and Palestinian terrorist organizations to act against the State of Israel. [end recording]

We have paid a heavy price over the years to safeguard the security of the residents of northern Israel, the defense minister said, and we intend to maintain it. We will not give up the achievements that cost us so dearly. The Israeli Government is determined not to undermine its security again. The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee will discuss the issue further.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 10 July adds that "Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that the increase in terrorist operations from Lebanon leaves Israel no choice but to continue giving her full support to General Lahd's South Lebanese Army. This backing applies to the Jazzin enclave and southern Lebanon, Arens said in the Knesset."]

Minister Says Bush Misunderstood Shamir Remarks

TA1107082591 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Text] President George Bush misunderstood a comment by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to mean the government would suspend its settlement activities in the administered territories, Police Minister Roni Milo told the Knesset yesterday.

Milo was replying to a question from MK [Knesset Member] Hayim Bar-Lev (Labor) based on a press report which quoted Shamir as saying "it will be okay," when Bush asked him to suspend settlement activity.

"During a conversation between President Bush and the prime minister, Bush raised the question of the settlements," Milo said. "The prime minister replied that the issue would not pose a problem in advancing the peace process.

"President Bush apparently mistakenly understood from this that the prime minister would not continue with settlement activity. However, the prime minister meant that if the Arab states wanted to negotiate peace, they will do so despite the settlements, and therefore the settlements would not be an obstacle."

Sharon: Intifadah Must Be Stopped, Not Bypassed

TA1107105891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The situation in the Gaza Strip today is similar to that of the 1970's, Minister Ari'el Sharon said this morning at a ceremony inaugurating the Yig'al Road, named after the late Likud Knesset Member Yig'al Kohen. The road links the Gaza Strip with the Eshkol District in the Negev. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports from the ceremony:

The road is not aimed at bypassing the intifadah, Minister Ari'el Sharon stressed this morning at the inauguration of the road linking Kibbutz Kissufim and the Gaza Strip. He said terrorism cannot be bypassed. We have been doing that unsuccessfully for over three years. I claim that the phenomenon must be uprooted, Sharon said.

[Begin Sharon recording] They are now firing live ammunition. The shooting is a direct result of not dealing with the initial signs of the intifadah in time. [end recording]

There is no doubt that the new road will permit safer access from Gush Qatif to Beersheba. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost has been erected near the spot where the border fence between the Gaza Strip and the Negev once passed, and another outpost will apparently be set up within a few days at the junction linking Yig'al Road and the Gaza-Khan Yunus road. Gush Qatif residents welcomed the new road, which they believe will promote tourism to Gaza beach.

Minister Sharon said after the ceremony that as a result of the attacks at the Morag junction, the expansion of the settlement on its permanent site will be accelerated. He said that all 16 Gush Qatif settlements will be expanded in the future and that only accelerated construction of Jewish settlements will prevent terror.

In the meantime, incidents in the Gaza Strip continued today. The security forces lifted the curfew on the Khan Yunus refugee camp and the town of Khan Yunus this morning, and IDF soldiers captured two masked men

scrawling slogans. In Rafah, a firebomb was hurled at an IDF patrol, but there were neither casualties nor damage.

UN Envoy Matutes Meets Leaders, Ends Visit

Received by Foreign Minister

TA1007113591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1030 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi took time off from Foreign Ministry internal affairs department to meet EC representative Abel Matutes. The meeting ended a few minutes ago. Our political correspondent Arye Golan filed the initial report:

We have two initiatives, Matutes told reporters upon emerging from the meeting with Foreign Minister Levi: one is to help Israel incorporate into Europe, and the other is to create an opportunity for cooperation between Europe and the Middle East countries, and among the countries themselves. He stressed that, although the initiatives are ambitious, they depend on the progress of the peace process.

He continued: I came to examine the status of the population in the occupied territories, as he put it. Concerning the EC representative to the territories, he reported, the issue will also be discussed with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. The EC representative will have diplomatic status and will reside in Brussels.

Foreign Minister Levi said later: We will cooperate with the EC against the Arab boycott.

[Begin Levi recording] Today, we also agreed to take legal action, according to the understandings obtained, against the Arab boycott against Israel, which contradicts all legal norms and conflicts with EC principles. I am very glad that we could discuss the way to cooperate in distributing and directing humanitarian and economic aid for the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. [end recording]

Meets Shamir, Finance Minister

TA1007175191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that Israel would like to contribute as much as it can to promoting peace, but the problem lies in the profound and historic nature of the conflict between us and the Arabs, which cannot be easily resolved with one grand stroke. To resolve it, patience and gradual progress are necessary, as Europe should know. In a conversation with EC Commissioner Abel Matutes, the prime minister called on Europe to take a balanced stand on the conflict, an attitude which will allow it to make a substantial contribution to the promotion of peace in the Middle East.

Matutes replied that the EC is interested in including Israel in the European economic system after the pattern of Scandinavian countries. If such economic integration is to take place, however, stability and cooperation between countries should prevail in the Middle East. The current EC thinking, therefore, is to encourage Israel to make progress toward peace with its neighbors.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that a team of EC and Israeli experts will soon launch discussions on ways of incorporating Israel into the European economic space. An agreement to this effect was reached in a meeting between Matutes and Foreign Minister David Levi.

In an earlier meeting with the finance minister, the commissioner said that the EC intends to incorporate Israel into Europe's economy in the near future, when Israel will granted a status similar to that of nonmember European countries.

No Agreement on EC Aid

TA1107112291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Moshe Arens and EC Commissioner Abel Matutes failed to reach an agreement on the way the EC representative on aid to the territories should operate. The discussions will continue. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Want EC Aid Via PLO

TA1007191591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Report by Amir Hay]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] After concluding his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, EC Commissioner Abel Matutes arrived at the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem, the headquarters of the local Palestinian notables. The notables expressed their opposition to any idea that the approximately $80 million in EC aid to the territories be channeled through the civil administration. Before the meeting, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash explained their position to the waiting correspondents.

[Begin Abu-'Ayyash recording in English] It should be allocated to the national institutions directly, because we believe that we have to build our national institutions to improve the economic situation, which has deteriorated because of Israeli occupation. [end recording]

It is important to note that prior to the visit there were severe arguments and struggles among the various organizations as to which group would get the largest portion of the money. Just before the visit, however, the leaders of the organizations realized that their internal fighting might lead the European donors to funnel the money through Israel. The Palestinians therefore united in demanding that the donations should be sent to PLO headquarters in Tunis. Matutes himself told them that

the EC wanted to open its own representation in East Jerusalem to supervise the funds, but that Israel was opposed to that idea.

Notes Prospects Upon Departure

TA1107104791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] EC Commissioner Abel Matutes this morning left Israel at the end of a two-day visit. He told newsmen there was a real prospect of achieving peace in the Middle East, and the European Community was prepared to meet the challenge.

[Begin Matutes recording] What is important is, I think, that there are real chances—perhaps for the first time in the history—to get peace, to undertake a peace process and to achieve it. Never before the conditions, from one side and from the other, have been reached in such a clear way. And I am convinced, I am sure, that everybody wants peace, lasting and just peace. Just peace is a condition for a lasting peace. Then, let me express my hope that the parties, with the aid of everybody and in particular of the EC, will be able to reach such an important target, not only for the actual generation but for future generations. This is our wish; this is also our hope, and we are ready to cooperate in this. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 11 July adds: "EC representative Abel Matutes made it clear that he notified the representatives of the Palestinians that the EC representative to the territories will have a technical function only, and that the EC aid will be given for economic and humanitarian needs only, and not to the PLO-affiliated national institutions. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that this remark contradicts an earlier statement by Radwan Abu-'Ayyash that the EC funds will be given to the national institutions."]

Sanctions Against South Africa Expected To End

TA1107045691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi will travel soon to South Africa [RSA] on an official visit; no date has yet been set for the trip. Israel is expected to lift its economic sanctions against South Africa in the next few days. This was recommended yesterday by a high-level team at the Foreign Ministry. Jack Katzenell reports:

Foreign Minister David Levi yesterday chaired one of the periodical meetings of his staff which deals with the South African question. This group included Ambassador to South Africa Tzvi Gov- Ari, acting Director General Yosi Hadas, and Assistant Directors General Eytan Ben-Tzur, Ya'aqov Kohen, and Moshe Yegar. They recommended the lifting of the sanctions against South Africa imposed in September 1987. Foreign Minister Levi is expected to submit this recommendation to the cabinet on Sunday [14 July], and it will almost certainly be adopted unanimously.

The question is: Does the cancellation include the decision not to sign any new defense contracts with Pretoria? To this, no unequivocal answer has been forthcoming, but, in practice, there is virtually no chance that Israel would resume arms sales to South Africa or cooperation with Pretoria on defense, because of the international repercussions which this would bring. On the South African issue, Israel has been following America's lead, and the United States is complying with the UN ban on arms sales to the Pretoria government.

Justice Ministry on Accuracy of Amnesty Report

TA1107103691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jul 91 p A6

[Report by Moshe Reinfeld]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Justice Ministry yesterday issued Israel's official response to Amnesty International's annual report. Concerning the report's claims about administrative detentions, the response says: "There are indeed cases where, for understandable reasons, all the details that led to the detention cannot be revealed, because this might expose secret sources of information and endanger the lives of witnesses. At the same time, contrary to claims in the report, even in such cases the detainees are apprised of the main reasons and the information that led to their detention, and the court dealing with these cases reviews all the evidence and other material concerning them. Contrary to what the report states, detention terms have been reduced or canceled, in a significant number of cases, following an appeal by the detainee." [passage omitted]

The Justice Ministry announcement says that Israel absolutely rejects the accusation in the report that Israel is encouraging "extrajudicial executions."

Israel's response questions the credibility of the Amnesty report: "The chapter in the report dealing with Israel and the territories again raises doubts about the organization's commitment to accuracy and objectivity. The report deprecates the severity of Palestinian violence and disturbances of the public order, and criticizes Israel's efforts to capture and punish those involved in such activity, which is its duty according to international law."

Israel's reply stresses that the report ignores background information vital to understanding the link between Israel's reaction and the intifadah violence itself. "Amnesty avoids mentioning the fact that, during the time period the report covers, intifadah activists carried out over 70,000 acts of disturbance; 81 attacks with firearms; five attacks with hand grenades; 173 attacks with cold steel weapons, such as knives, axes, and other lethal weapons; 651 attacks with firebombs; and 300 cases of arson. Furthermore, 1,193 Israeli civilians and

some 3,000 Army soldiers required medical treatment after being hurt in disturbances."

The Israeli announcement also says that although Amnesty defines "prisoners of conscience" as people who neither preach nor resort to violence, the organization ignores this definition in Israel's case and lists prisoners who are active members in terrorist organizations as "prisoners of conscience."

The announcement further says that this year, the report failed to accurately describe the causes for the arrest or detention of most of the people whose rights they claim were violated. "The people whom the report delicately describes as 'human rights field activists,' 'reporters,' or 'political activists' have, in fact, been convicted, tried, or detained for illegal activity which endangered the security of the public or state. These people have the right to be represented by an attorney of their choice and to appeal to the High Court of Justice."

Israel claims that "the report detracts from the gravity of violations of human rights by Palestinians against other Palestinians, under the inspiration of terrorist organizations such as the PLO, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], or the Islamic Jihad. The way the report treats this issue is particularly strange in light of the fact that even according to its own inaccurate data, most killings of Palestinians in the territories were committed by other Palestinians in an attempt to impose the rule of the terrorist organizations."

Israel's statement says that while the Amnesty report provides a broad review of claims made by Israel's political critics, it only briefly refers to Israel's detailed replies to the organization.

Treasury Team To Probe Aliyah's Economic Impact

TA1007185291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] A Treasury delegation is about to leave for the Soviet Union, where it will investigate the scope of potential immigration to Israel and its impact on the Israeli economy. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the Treasury delegation includes Hayim Katz, who is Finance Minister Moda'i's aide, and the Budget Department deputy director in charge of aliyah and housing.

Development of New Generation Tanks Detailed

TA0707132491 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The newest generation of Merkava tanks, which is being developed by reserve General Yisra'el Tal, is an upgraded model of the original tank and is described as the tank of the year 2000.

In a special interview with 'AL HAMISHMAR, Gen. Tal said: "This advanced tank will be adapted to be battlefront ready by the year 2000. It is based on a more modern concept than previous models. People familiar with it describe it as 'something between a missile and an airplane.'"

Referring to the qualities of the new Merkava, Gen. Tal, "the father of the Merkava," said its development was preceded by extensive research about all types of tanks and the weapons posing a challenge to them. Gen. Tal thinks that tanks will probably continue to serve the same goal they have always served in the modern battlefield.

Just as the Merkava-1, and later the Merkava-3, were new concepts and an advanced generation, the tank being developed now is designed to be "the tank of the 21st Century."

The Israeli Army has many Merkava-3 tanks, and will acquire the future generation of tanks in the future. According to Gen. Tal, the Merkava-3 is a perfect tank with a new and original modular shield and an advanced machine gun.

In Tal's opinion, the Army can go on relying on this tank in the next few years and, at the same time, continue to develop the tank of the next century.

Commentary on 'Concessions' Bush Seeks From Arabs

JN1107082191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Jul 91 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed editorial: "What Concessions Does Bush Want the Arabs To Offer?"]

[Text] U.S. President Bush is trying once again to cover up for Israeli recalcitrance and arrogance toward peace efforts, and to weasel out of Washington's responsibility to seriously pressure the Shamir government into accepting international legitimacy, given that there is no other alternative for a just, comprehensive solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Palestinian question.

Despite the fact that the U.S. Administration knows full well that Israel, which has the military edge and follows a belligerent approach with unlimited U.S. support, is the sole cause for the stalemate in the peace process, President Bush ignored this fact in his interview with the French newspaper LE FIGARO yesterday. Bush is also trying to hold the Arabs responsible for obstructing peace efforts. He specifically hinted that the delay in Syria's reply to his proposals, contained in letters to the leaders of the region, hinders the peace process and that more delay only means rejection. Bush ignores the fact that Shamir's reply to his proposals was a clear rejection of the most important point at issue, namely, the continuation of the peace conference and UN participation.

What is stranger yet is that President Bush has linked his diffident request of Israel, to freeze settlement building in the occupied Arab territories, to his request for the Arabs to lift economic sanctions against Israel. No doubt that such linkage is not devoid of arbitrariness, for Arab economic sanctions are a means of joint Arab action to oppose Zionist aggression which has gone on for more than four decades. However, settlement building in the occupied Arab territories means persisting in consolidating the aggressive approach in the Zionist settlement policy that contravenes the UN resolutions and international legitimacy that Bush has "championed" in the gulf by committing the ugliest crime in modern history: the slaughtering and starving of the Iraqi people, destroying Iraq's infrastructure and pillaging its resources.

Instead of taking a positive step toward peace by pressuring Israel to stop settlement building, the U.S. President continues to provide more financial support for these settlements. He also said that the parties to the conflict should offer concessions to facilitate peace efforts!

We want to ask President Bush, leader of a new world order based on pillaging and domination, what concessions does he want the Arabs to make after all they have done already? When he asks for concessions, moreover, what differences remain between his position and the Israeli demands that the Arabs make more concessions? There is nothing left to cede except territory. The U.S. President should also tell us what concessions he has forced Israel to make in exchange for those offered by the Arabs.

The Arabs will continue to accuse the United States of being an accessory to Zionist aggression. It will remain without credibility as long as it deals with international legitimacy and UN resolutions hypocritically and with double standards.

Crown Prince Meets With UN Envoy Brunner

JN1007163091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] This morning, in his office at the Royal Hashemite Court, Crown Prince Hasan received Mr. Edouard Brunner, the UN secretary general's special envoy, who discussed his tour of several countries in the Middle East, and proposals for peace in the region.

His Highness explained to his guest Jordan's stand regarding the issue of peace in the Middle East. He also discussed the bad conditions in the occupied Arab territories and the desperate situation of the people there from both the social and economic aspects.

The meeting was attended by Jordan's representative to the United Nations.

Mr. Edouard Brunner left Amman this afternoon after concluding a two-day visit to Jordan.

'Arafat To Present Weapons as 'Gift' to Army

NC1007162791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Communist Action Organization, announced today that he has informed President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, and Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin, of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's decision to present the Palestinians' medium- and heavy-caliber weapons as a gift to the Lebanese Army once the weapons are collected. Ibrahim said that the Palestinian leadership wishes to establish brotherly relations with the Lebanese Army.

Transfer of Weapons Begins

NC1107065491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The transfer of Palestinian weapons in Tyre began this morning following a large Lebanese Army deployment in the area. It is important to note that what happened in Sidon has not and will not be repeated in Tyre. [passage omitted]

A military source told the AL-NAHAR newspaper that military officials met with a Palestinian delegation in Tyre last night and decided that the transfer of heavy- and medium-caliber weapons would begin at 0600 today. The Amal Movement will transfer to the Army five armored personnel carriers, two antiaircraft guns, and heavy- and medium-caliber weapons.

The Tyre meeting was attended by the following representatives: Ministers Shawqi Fakhuri and 'Abdallah al-Amin from the ministerial liaison committee; Lieutenant Colonel Mahir al-Tyfayli from the Lebanese Army; and Kamal Midhat, Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, 'Abd-al- Qadir, and Haj Tawfiq Yunus from the Palestinian side.

Following the meeting, Minister al-Amin said that the discussion centered on the Council of Ministers' decision to collect heavy- and medium-caliber weapons from the camps in the Tyre area and place them in Army hands. Al-Amin added that a full agreement was reached to implement this decision peacefully and immediately. He pointed out that the Palestinians were responsive during the discussions.

[In a similar report, Paris AFP in English at 0606 on 11 July adds that "In the al-Rashidiyah camp, which has 17,000 inhabitants, Army and PLO officials supervised the loading of trucks with mortars, recoilless guns, heavy machine-guns and anti-tank rockets." The report adds: "Army trucks also began collecting weapons in the region's six other refugee camps. Some 40,000 Palestinians live in the Tyre area."]

PLO Men in Camps; 'Arafat Fears 'Massacres'

NC1107070591 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told the Palestinain news agency WAFA that PLO gunmen will not withdraw from Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon so as not to leave the camps under the threat of new massacres, as he put it.

Minister Says Army Deployment in South 'Completed'

NC1107111091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr announced today that the Lebanese Army has completed its deployment in the entire southern area specified by the Council of Ministers' decision. He said the deployment has reached the camps' perimeters and that instructions are clear that the Army not enter the camps.

Minister al-Murr added that the Army has informed the Palestinian factions inside the camps that they must hand over their weapons. He said: The weapons transfer began at 0600 today and by midday the Palestinians had handed over 50 percent of the weapons we believe they own. He noted that the Palestinians are being responsive and handing over their weapons to the Army.

Minister al-Murr added that some remaining weapons in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah camps were handed over last night. The Amal Movement turned over some privately owned weapons, consisting of five armored personnel carriers and ammunition, to the Army.

Minister al-Murr spoke following his meeting with French Ambassador to Lebanon Daniel Husson. The ambassador invited Al-Murr to attend a ceremony to be held at al-Sunawbar Palace on 14 July to celebrate France's national day.

Details of Army Deployment

NC1007125091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Army units began deploying in Tyre, nearby villages, and the al-Rashidiyah, al-Burj al-Shamali, and al-Buss camps at dawn today and also deployed in areas adjacent to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] positions in the south. Units of the 10th Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Antoine Sawwan arrived in Tyre at 1330, and some headed toward al-Buss, al-Rashidiyah, and al-Burj al-Shamali camps. Several Army units deployed near the small camps of al-Wasitah, al-Qasimiyah, al- Burghuliyah, and Shabrihah along the main Tyre road this morning. Meanwhile, Army officers met UNIFIL forces in the south outside Tyre to discuss coordination and cooperation.

Army Officer on Deployment Plan

NC1107122891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The Army officer responsible for the Tyre operation has disclosed the Army's plan for its deployment there. He said that the Army will deploy in a 60-sq km area comprising Sidon and neighboring villages to its

north and south. The officer said that the deployment will be completed in four days and that weapons from Lebanese and Palestinian militias will be withdrawn from the area. The officer warned that if any Lebanese or Palestinian party refused to hand over their weapons, they would be taken from them by force.

The Lahd militia has cast doubt on the Lebanese Army's ability to operate in th south. Seeking to justify Israel's occupation, Lahd's radio said that those living in the border strip know that the Lebanese Army cannot prevent the operations that necessitate Israel's presence in the south.

Israeli, Lahd Forces' Activities in South

NC1107114791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces and agent Lahd's militia intensified their military movements in the south last night. They carried out motorized patrols and established roadblocks on crossroads leading to the liberated areas. Helicopter flights over the eastern sector and Western al-Biqa' accompanied the operations. A number of helicopters were seen landing in Kawkaba position.

According to information received from the south, the occupation forces reinforced their presence on the main road between Marj 'Uyun and Hasbayya. Foot patrols also entered deep into the groves in Kasbayya and Kawkaba.

Palestinian Official Calls for Political Dialogue

NC1107115691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] PLO member Abu-Walid has emphasized the PLO's commitment to the Lebanese state's decisions. He called on the Lebanese state to move the dialogue between the ministerial liaison committee and the PLO and turn it into a political dialogue to resolve all common issues.

After meeting with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi-Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, Abu-Walid indicated that the PLO has been told by the ministerial committee that the dialogue will begin after the PLO surrenders its weapons. He said: Now that we have handed over our weapons, we hope the dialogue will begin. He said: From the Lebanese state's point of view, the dialogue should deal with social conditions. We believe that social conditions are inseparable from other issues. He added: Regardless of how the Lebanese state and we view the dialogue, our meeting will be a good beginning.

Abu-Walid, accompanied by 'Ali Faysal and Ahmad Murad, visited the deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council this morning. The situation in the south in light of the Palestinian decision to present the Palestinian weapons to the Lebanese Army as a gift was a main topic of conversation.

The Palestinian delegation thanked Shaykh Shams-al-Din for the recent statement issued by the Higher Islamic Shiite Council in which it expressed its understanding of the Palestinian position.

Algerian Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Lebanon

LD0907130691 Algiers APS in English 1027 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Beirut 9 Jul (APS)—Minister of Foreign Affairs Lakhdar Ibrahimi started on Monday a two-day official visit to Lebanon during which he is due to hold political talks with Lebanese leaders on bilateral relations and exchange points of view upon regional and international questions and their repercussions on this region.

This first visit of Ibrahimi as a head of the Algerian diplomacy to Lebanon occurs at a time when great steps have been achieved in the implementation of Taif accord. Furthermore, Lebanese officials devote a great importance to this visit considering Ibrahimi's popularity who has been a delegate of tripartite committee as a deputy secretary general of the Arab League before assuming the function of a minister of foreign affairs at Ghozali government.

It is worth noting that the Lebanese Government constituted a "contact" ministerial commission in charge of listing Palestinians' civil and social claims.

The Algerian minister of foreign affairs' visit, according to Lebanese politicians, falls within the scope of the redynamization of the Arab tripartite committee's role to help Lebanon to extend its authority upon all the Lebanese territory and return to normalcy that preceded the civil war.

The first day of this visit was marked by a series of discussions between the head of the Algerian diplomacy and Lebanese head of government 'Umar Karami who deputizes for the Lebanese minister of foreign affairs in a mission abroad. The talks, stated Ibrahimi at the close of this first round, centered on all internal and regional questions particularly the peace process in Lebanon.

Later, the Algerian minister of foreign affairs paid a visit to the provisional presidency's head quarters in West Beirut where he has been received by president of the republic Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Ends Official Visit

NC1007172791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahimi left Beirut this afternoon at the end of an official visit to Lebanon. In a statement to APS, Ibrahimi said that his visit had allowed him to become better informed about current events in Lebanon and the latest developments in the peace process. He added that he had discussed the

economic and social situation in the country and the Palestinian presence during his talks with Lebanese officials.

Ibrahimi said that the visit reflected his strong sense of friendship for Lebanon and his desire to provide every assistance to enable it to continue its march. He noted that the Lebanese officials had expressed great appreciation for Algeria's support for their efforts to establish the state's authority throughout the country.

Education Minister Ends Protest, Resumes Work

NC1007133591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Education Minister Butrus Harb has ended his stay-at-home protest, meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi today to review the university professors strike. Speaking after the meeting, Harb said:

In view of the current domestic situation, which requires the unity of all citizens and officials; in light of the Education Ministry's need to take action on crucial issues, particularly final exams and the question of administrative appointments for which my presence is required; in appreciation of the university professors' request that I end my stay-at-home protest; and after consulting with President al-Hirawi and at his request—a request preceded by similar calls from various ministers and deputies—I consider it my duty to reassume my responsibilities as of today, pending a decision on the unresolved demands. Harb added that he would attend today's cabinet meeting.

Information Minister Reports on Cabinet Meeting

NC1007200191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Statement by Lebanese Information Minister Albert Mansur following a cabinet meeting in Beirut on 10 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] The cabinet discussed the Army's deployment in the south, considering what has been accomplished so far, as a step toward implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425. The Army spread out toward the Tyre region today. We hope that the deployment in this area will proceed peacefully and according to plan.

On the occasion of the Army deployment in the south, the cabinet has authorized me to ask the refugees from villages to the east of Sidon to return to their homes, which are ready to receive them. The state is prepared to offer them assistance and has asked the Council of the South to survey property damage in the area and study the possibility of extending aid.

The cabinet reaffirmed the positions expressed in the statement issued at its last meeting, especially regarding the civil and social rights of the Palestinians. The cabinet took notice of the announcement by some Palestinian factions that they would give their heavy- and medium-caliber weapons to the Lebanese Army.

The cabinet then discussed the convening of a ministerial conclave. It was decided that this conclave shall convene concurrently with the next cabinet meeting next Wednesday. This conclave will discuss not just the question of appointments [not further identified] but also the administrative structure.

The cabinet then discussed various items on the agenda. It approved a bill giving Army personnel a bonus equivalent to one month's salary in appreciation for their efforts during the deployment in Greater Beirut and southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Free Commander, Attack Kabul Forces

BK1007160291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin attacked a Kabul regime jail in Shirin Tagab District of Faryab Province and freed all prisoners, including their prominent commander Haji Adam Khan. The jail was destroyed and 17 militiamen of the Kabul regime were killed. According to another report, the mujahidin attacked the Kabul regime forces at Khanabad Oluswali of Konduz Province and forced them to retreat toward Konduz City. They also attacked the military headquarters in the (Paktia Gadun) area of the capital of Qandahar Province, killing more than 20 soldiers and militiamen.

Kabul Regime Troops Killed in 'Fierce Fighting'

BK1107040491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that fierce fighting is continuing between mujahidin and Kabul regime troops in different parts of the country. Reports say mujahidin have killed 31 Kabul regime troops in separate operations in Herat Province. In the Zindajan area, 25 Kabul regime troops have been killed in the mujahidin's attack and many others injured. Two tanks have also been destroyed during the attacks. Three Kabul regime troops were killed in a bomb explosion in (Qila Now) area.

India

Oil Official Freed; Assam Militants Amnestied

BK1007162091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] In Assam, the chief geophysicist of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission [ONGC], Mr. Bhola Nath Jaiswal, has been released by ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] this evening. According to official sources at Guwahati, Mr. Jaiswal was dropped near the ONGC guesthouse at Atalia village near Jorhat town. Mr. Jaiswal was kidnapped by ULFA on the first of this month along with 15 others from different places.

Meanwhile, the Assam Government has decided to go ahead with the implementation of the general amnesty to the ULFA activists announced earlier. Briefing newsmen at Dispur, an official spokesman said that the government stands firm on its commitment. He also said that all persons who had either escaped from jail earlier or have not been apprehended by police so far will be covered by the general amnesty. The spokesman said that applications were filed before the court yesterday on behalf of the state government for releasing 354 detainees. Till today afternoon, 175 orders of release were issued by the court. The spokesman informed that the body of the slain Soviet engineer has not yet been recovered.

Earlier during the day, the chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, reviewed the situation with his Cabinet colleagues and senior officials. The state government has appealed to all sections of the people of the state to surrender their unlicensed arms and ammunition to the nearest police station within 15 days with effect from today. In a press release, the state government said that no legal action will be taken against those who surrender their unauthorized arms and ammunition in response to this appeal.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has condemned the killing of the Soviet engineer, Mr. Sergey Grishchenko, by ULFA militants in Assam. In a statement in New Delhi, the Politburo of the CPI-M said it is unfortunate that the murder comes after the state government's decision to release all ULFA men through a general amnesty. It criticized the Assam Government for not taking major opposition parties into confidence on the issue of granting general amnesty to ULFA men.

President Briefs Parliament on 'Economic Crisis'

BK1107080491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The president has called upon the people to be ready for any sacrifice to safeguard our economic independence. Addressing the joint session of Parliament today, Mr. Venkataraman said the country must prepare itself to take hard and unpleasant decisions to overcome the economic crisis of unprecedented magnitude. Expressing that the fiscal imbalanace continues to be a major concern, the president said government will observe strict discipline, check growth of black money, and control expenditure. He said while making necessary adjustments, it will be ensured that the burden does not fall on the poor.

Referring to the recent structural reforms announced in the trade policy, Mr. Venkataraman said the ultimate goal is to eliminate all licensing control on the import of capital goods and raw materials, except for a small negative list.

The president said the government is committed to restore normalcy and to start the democratic process in Punjab at the earliest. Asserting that the government stands by the Rajiv-Longowal accord, Mr. Venkataraman said negotiations are always possible with those who eschew violence and accept the framework of our constitution. He said government will continue to strive for a comprehensive settlement of all outstanding issues to have a permanent and peaceful solution of the Punjab problem.

Referring to the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the president said secessionist and certain fundamentalist elements aided and abetted from across the border are carrying out terrorist and subversive

activities in the state. He said relations between the government and the people in the state need to be strengthened and for this purpose people's committees will be constituted at different levels. While warning that stern action will be taken against secessionist forces, the president said special attention will be given to provide employment to the unemployed youth in the valley.

The president expressed satisfaction over peaceful elections in Assam and said the people have given a fitting reply to forces of secession. He said every effort will be made to bring back into the mainstream the secessionist elements in the state.

Expressing his serious concern over the spread of communalism, the president said government will not allow the interest of religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities to be compromised. He said every effort will be made to find a negotiated settlement of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue with due regard to the sentiments of both communities. The president indicated that a bill will be introduced in the Parliament to maintain the status quo as on 15th August 1947 in respect of all other places of worship to foreclose any new controversy.

He said a composite rapid action force will be set up to deal with riots and will be made available to states at short notice.

Unidentified Persons Ransack Minister's House

BK1107070891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Some unidentified persons intruded into the house of the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, at Nanded in Maharashtra yesterday morning. They reportedly asked the watchman for whereabouts of the daughter and the son in law of Mr. Chavan. The watchman, who refused to part with any information, was beaten up. The unidentified persons then entered and ransacked the house before leaving. The Maharastra chief minister has expressed concern over the incident. He said the state government is making all efforts to nab the intruders.

Protest Held Against 'Suppression' of Rights

BK1007125491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] A demonstration was held outside the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi today to protest against the alleged suppression of civil rights in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The protesters also submitted a memorandum at the High Commission condemning the military training being provided to the Kashmiri youth to create trouble in the valley.

16 Killed in Punjab in Separate Incidents

BK1107052691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 11 91

[Text] In Punjab, 11 security force personnel and three militants are among 16 persons killed in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, militants struck in a big way at a police post in village (Kharacho) in (Bhiwanigar) area of Sangrur District early this morning killing eight security personnel. Two persons including a policeman were also injured. In a separate incident, two police assistant inspectors and a police constable were killed and nine policemen injured, seven of them seriously, in a landmine blast near village Lalpura in Amritsar District late last night. Three militants were killed in an encounter with the security forces in (Zira) area of Ferozpore District and an unidentified gunman killed two persons in Amagarh area of Sangrur District last night.

Tamil Nadu's New Government Mandate Viewed

91P40320A Madras DINAMANI in Tamil 17 June 91 p 1

[Editor's comments: "Change of Rule in Tamil Nadu"]

[Text] The election results in Tamil Nadu became quite apparent last evening, even before all the votes were counted. A united AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] -Congress (I) Party is marching toward a staggering victory. DMK [Dravida Munnestra Kazhagam] is headed for an unbelievable defeat.

It is now certain that the next administration in Tamil Nadu will be the AIADMK under Jayalalitha's leadership. It is astonishing and at the same time a matter of concern that there is going to be no worthwhile opposition ratified by the Legislative Assembly.

Even prior to the elections it was generally felt it would be difficult for DMK to win. The main reason for this was that in the preceding General Assembly elections the DMK did not capture even one single seat. Also, it could be seen clearly, after looking at the voting patterns and statistics from many previous elections, that the DMK was not powerful enough to defeat a united AIADMK and Congress (I) coalition.

The DMK was expected to lose, but the crushing defeat it met, was quite unexpected. There are many more reasons for that defeat: First, the Tamil people were greatly shocked by the fact that Rajiv Gandhi's assasination occurred on Tamil land. The guilt associated with this feeling made them hang their heads in shame. The resultant sympathy for Congress (I) and its coalition partner, AIADMK, knew no bounds. This was the first reason for their landslide victory.

Second, the results of this election prove that the Tamil people are not willing to forget or forgive the gun culture introduced to previously peaceful Tamil Nadu by an unnaturally close relationship formed between the DMK

and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE]. The Tamil people have decided that if separatism and terrorism in the state are to be crushed, a different party that subscribes to national unity and shows full confidence in democratic approaches must be elected to power.

Third, DMK lost the support of the mothers of the land completely when it wantonly argued that the poor also had "Kudi Rights." ["Kudi" in Tamil means "civil" as an adjective and "drinking" as a verb. Here, the play on words exposes the danger hidden in introducing such schemes as a statewide "cheap-price-liquor" scheme in the name of social welfare and civil rights advocacy.] Realizing this very well at the outset, Jayalalitha began every single campaign speech with the promise that if elected to power, she would get rid of Karunanidhi's "cheap-price-liquor" scheme once and for all. This earned her the enormous vote [count] of the women in the state.

The cheap and inflammatory argument that Jayalalitha was not fit to be elected to office because of her "Jati" ["caste"] was totally crushed by the truly democratic electorate that did the same thing earlier. [A reference to the landslide victory of former chief minister, the late Dr. M. G. Ramachandran] to the argument that a "Malayali" ["Keralite"] could not rule the State of Tamil Nadu.]]

Jayalalitha faces many responsibilities as she assumes the position of chief minister. Starting with the abolition of cheap liquor, we hope she will make good all of the AIADMK promises on its election manifesto without much loss of time. We wish her well on behalf of our many readers.

BJP Leader Wants Kashmir Border Sealed

BK1007125691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, has asked the government to seal the border along Jammu and Kashmir to check infiltration from Pakistan. Dr. Joshi, who returned from Jammu, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the center should use its powers to immediately restore law and order in the valley. He suggested that the three provinces of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh should have separate regional councils.

Integration Attempted Via Language Instruction

91P40338A Madras DINAMANI in Tamil 21 June 91 p 8

["Tamil To Be Taught in 16 Schools in U.P."—DINAMANI Correspondent]

[Text] In the northern Indian State of U.P.[Uttar Pradesh], 16 schools from eight districts to teach languages of the south such as Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Telugu. The U.P. chief minister informed the Madras governor, Bishmanarayan Singh, of this decision in a letter he wrote recently.

The U.P. chief minister said in this letter, "This arrangement has been made to bring about national integration. Students from the 6th to 10th grades started learning the languages of the south such as Tamil since 2 October 1990." He said further, "The students learning these languages will be given admission preference to schools in addition to receiving many other benefits including tuition assistance."

Activities of U.S. Troops in Bangladesh Noted

BK1007135391 Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Guwahati, July 1—The American task force, still engaged in the "Operation Sea Angel" relief mission in Bangladesh is showing undue interest on the Indo-Bangla border. They have already surveyed the border areas, strategically important from the security point of view.

Reports from Agartala in a leading English daily from Guwahati THE SENTINEL, on July 1 said that the American troops, along with the Bangladesh army officials had already visited all sensitive points along the Tripura-Bangladesh border.

Intelligence sources said that the American troops had surveyed the areas like Ramgarh, Kasba, Ghauddagram, Ghagalnaya and Narsinggarh and had also taken photographs of the Indian security installations along the border, according to the report.

It may be mentioned that those areas were least affected by the devastating cyclonic storm of April last.

The report also said, quoting newspapers and other sources from across the border, that nearly 500 members of the American joint task force decided to stay back in Bangladesh for an indefinite period. The list includes also some high officials who have free access to all the areas inside Bangladesh. Moreover, the foreign troops will take charge of the security of Bangladesh premier Begum Khaleda Zia and will train the Bangladesh military.

US President George Bush had diverted the American troops from Iraq and Okinawa to Bangladesh ostensibly for relief works immediately after the cyclone. The task force was commanded by US major general Henry C. Stackpole. The forces landed in Bangladesh on May 12 and comprise mainly engineers and communicating experts in uniform who were engaged in the Gulf war earlier.

US General Mr Stackpole had reportedly said earlier that the American troops were coming only to provide relief to millions in the coastal areas and offshore islands. But recent surveying of the strategic points along the Indo-Bangla border indicates that they have other interests in

the subcontinent which is witnessing the presence of US Army for the first time since independence.

A few oilfields and gas reserves dot the Indian side of the Indo-Bangla border. Moreover, the bordering areas inside Bangladesh, of late have become sanctuaries for the secessionist guerillas operating in the entire North-East region. Intelligence sources here are aware that Pola and NSCN [National Socialist Council of Nagaland] guerillas were getting arms training in those areas earlier during Ziaur Rahman's regime. Reports then indicated of frequent visit of Bangla Army officials and even of the Pakistan army officials.

The operations of the US armymen in Bangladesh have been monitored, according to reports, by the US Embassy at Dhaka.

However, the opposition and the student community in Bangladesh are protesting against the free movement of US armymen here.

Commentary Reviews SAARC Male Meeting

BK1107112191 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 11 Jul 91

[S.C. Bhatt Commentary]

[Text] The sentiment of regional togetherness again came to the fore as foreign ministers of the South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation—SAARC—met in Male, capital of the Maldives, a few days ago. Their main task was to finalize the agenda for the summit of the association to be held in Colombo later this year [7-9 November]. The two-day session not only accomplished this mission, but also underlined the importance of cooperation in the economic and trade sphere, tourism, and fighting terrorism.

Of the several regional groupings in the world, SAARC is the youngest and, therefore, has not much visible evidence to show for its ("exertions) by way of cooperation. Like all regional bodies, including the European Economic Community and the ASEAN—Association of South East Asian Nations—it has its usual quota of differences among some members which are not conducive to speedy progress on working as a regional group. All the same, the urge for forging regional ties a strong, which in the first place had brought the nations—India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives—under the banner of SAARC. [sentence as heard]. Five summit sessions have been held and the foreign ministers have been meeting regularly, while the officials who work behind the scene have labored hard to produce some concrete results.

It was the outcome of one such official groups efforts that the Male session of foreign ministers had before them. The subject was the central theme of regional cooperation—trade cooperation as the first step to the distant but a clear goal of a common market. The ministers decided that a high-level committee be set up to define the areas of cooperation for implementation on short term as well as long-term basis. They decided to endorse the standing committee's report on trade, manufactures, and services. This, according to Mr. Muchkund Dubey, India's foreign secretary, was a step forward. He had obviously in mind Pakistan's policy of shutting its doors to Indian exports among other things. In the area of tourism, likewise, some significant progress was registered. Tourism offers great scope for cooperation as the region as a whole has immense potentiality for both regional and world tourism. The foreign ministers decided to constitute a technical committee on tourism to enhance cooperation in this sphere.

India's External Affairs Minister Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki rightly observed that the Male meeting would prove to be a milestone in boosting mutual cooperation and in the development of the economy of the SAARC nations. The Maldives president, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, underlined the need for achieving cooperation in fighting terrorism in his inaugural address to the conference of foreign ministers. He called it a scourge and spoke of the dangers terrorism posed to the nations of the region. Sometime ago, a convention on fighting terrorism was adopted by SAARC and two of the members—Sri Lanka and the Maldives—have also ratified it. India indicated at the Male meet that a legislation will be brought forward in Parliament now in session in New Delhi for such ratification by India. The recent assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, former prime minister, by a suspected Sri Lankan LTTEE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist group is a rude reminder to all members of SAARC that this menace must be faced squarely and whatever the Association could do as a grouping must be done quickly.

Such getting together of leading figures of the region is also utilized for improving and enhancing bilateral contacts outside the four corners of the conference. Mr. Solanki had meeting with several of his counterparts. The foreign secretary, Mr. Dubey, had more detailed discussions with his counterpart Mr. Shaharyar Khan on matters of concerns to both countries. One of the positive decisions resulting from the Dubey-Khan parleys was that pertaining to the holding of the fourth round of foreign secretary level talks between the two neighbors. Such talks have helped in identifying problems and seeking peaceful solutions to them. Given the present climate of relations between Delhi and Islamabad, the talks provide a forum for exchange of news and ideas and at least prevented tension from accelerating further. Mr. Dubey also told Mr. Shaharyar Khan during their Male talks that Pakistan must stop its help to the terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir. In the case of Kashmir, large- scale infiltration by men trained and armed by Pakistan into Kashmir is posing a serious challenge to India's national integrity and to India-Pakistan relations.

India has good reasons to be satisfied with the outcome of the Male session of SAARC foreign ministers. Regional cooperation cannot grow overnight. But since

everyone has agreed on the need for it, the association is bound to move ahead in the days to come.

Iran

France's Scheer, Va'ezi Reach Accord on Dispute

LD1007205991 Tehran Voice of Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Mr. Francois Scheer, director general of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is visiting Tehran, held two separate meetings on Wednesday with Mr. Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs. They discussed removing the disagreements preventing drawing up the final text of the accord for solving the financial disputes between the two countries. During these talks, the two countries arrived at an agreement in principle about the main text of the protocol and found a solution for the clause disputed in the recent talks held in Paris.

In this meeting, it was also agreed that, after necessary coordination, they should take steps for the final drafting of the texts and their appendices to be signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries. They also had discussions about disputed points regarding some of the appendices of the protocol, and in those areas too the necessary understanding was reached.

Protest Issued Over Velayati Attackers' Release

LD1007211991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] For the third time the Swiss ambassador was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday. He was served with a note in which the Islamic Republic of Iran protested about the ways and means of dealing with the aftermath of the attack by the terrorist group, the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], against the delegation accompanying Mr. Velayati in Geneva.

According to the central news unit report, in his talk with the Swiss ambassador, the director of the Second Department of West European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs referred to the letter of apology from the Swiss foreign minister addressed to Mr. Velayati and continued: The Islamic Republic of Iran seriously demands explanations from the Swiss police authorities on the results of the investigations carried out into the Geneva incident, as well as regarding the reason for the release of the arrested persons.

It should be recalled that soon after the Geneva incident, the Swiss foreign minister sent a letter of apology addressed to Mr. Velayati, in which he said that police investigations regarding those responsible for the incident were underway.

Paper Denounces German Decision on Nuclear Plant

NC0607195091 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 30 Jun 91 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "The Policy of Killing Two Birds With One Stone"]

[Text] The visit by Jurgen Mollemann, German minister of economic affairs, and his high-level commercial-economic delegation to participate in the first joint Iranian-German economic session comes when the German news agency, reporting from Bonn and citing government sources, said that instead of completing the Bushehr nuclear power station, Germany will assist in the construction of a gas power station in Iran.

The excuse the German Government has given for not licensing the resumption of work on the Bushehr nuclear power plant, which includes participation by the Kraftwerk Union, was that the techniques employed at the Bushehr nuclear power station were outdated and the safety conditions inadequate.

This unilateral decision by the German Government comes when the Islamic Republic of Iran is in the midst of a period of economic and social reconstruction, and one of the elements for the success of its Five-Year Plan depends on the production of ample quantities of electrical energy to resume operation of industries and factories damaged in the war. The completion and operation of this massive project, which already has cost the Iranian Government billions of dollars, can be considered an effective step toward reconstruction.

Regarding this, how should we interpret Germany's refusal to cooperate on the completion of the Bushehr nuclear power station, simultaneous with the expansion of economic and commercial relations with Iran and the convocation of the first joint economic commission?

This comes when the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran [AEOI] commented on the German Government's stance: If the only issue for this decision is the lack of adequate safety at the Bushehr nuclear power station, it was expected that the German Government would only suggest the modernization of the power station, not that it would propose the construction of a gas power station. According to nuclear experts, the upgrading of the station's safety conditions would cost $3 million.

Thus, it seems that Germany has adopted the policy of killing two birds with one stone. The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bonn is speaking of the positive prospects of the current trend of economic and commercial exchanges and of raising them to the ceiling of $6 billion in the current year.

It appears that the German officials' decision goes beyond economic reasons and stems from political pressure, as a result of which it will adversely affect future reciprocal relations in political and economic fields.

It is therefore appropriate that the moves of foreign parties in the larger and national projects, such as the Bushehr nuclear power station, should be reviewed intensively.

Undoubtedly, as has been reflected in the statement of the AEOI: "The Iranian Government should not remain indifferent in the face of this unwarranted decision and ignore national interests."

U.S. Mideast Arms Control Proposal Criticized

LD1007134691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1046 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The five permanent members of the UN Security Council ended their two-day session in Paris during which they discussed arms control. [passage omitted] U.S. President George Bush, in his proposal entitled arms control in the Middle East, suggested that a freeze be placed on the procurement and production of surface-to-surface missiles in the Middle East followed by an ultimate ban. [passage omitted] The main emphasis in this proposal is on the Middle East region, and political observers believe that the said proposals were presented to the session in light, especially, of the deployment of Soviet made Scud missiles by Iraq against Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf war. Another proposal was advanced at this session by the French president, on the subject of the need to limit arm sales in the world. [passage omitted]

Of course, when Bush was talking about the limitations of arms sales to the Middle East, the American secretary of state for defense was also talking about the need to send advanced military equipment required by Israel. This lays bare the contradictions between what America says and what she does in the region; for it seems that America considers it to be legitimate and lawful to sell weapons to some Middle Eastern countries if they need the weapons for their self-defense. One may well ask: How is the distinction drawn between offensive and defensive weapons? And, what authority draws this distinction? If those authorities which are to decide about the sale and export of arms are supposed to be drawn from these very exporters and producers of arms in the world then this will surely lead to the trampling of the rights of non-friendly countries and the granting of more benefits to those authorities' alies. And in the event that the ban on the sale of arms to the Middle East region is endorsed by the next conference of the world's seven industrial countries, then the problems of Palestine and the regime occupying Jerusalem and the peace conference in the Middle East should be viewed and discussed as a step toward decreasing tensions and existing pitfalls.

In light of America's urge to preserve the existence of the al-Qods regime and because it has secured the equipment and facilities needed in the past by that regime, the Arab countries of the Middle East have a very important motive for wanting access to modern, advanced military weapons so that they may be able to respond to Israel's military threats. And, in reality, so that they may maintain a kind of military balance in the region.

Alongside the Arab countries of the region there are non-Arab countries which will have a need for advancd technology weapons so that they may be able to prevent interference and aggression. Political observers believe that U.S. President George Bush by having coined the term "the new world order," intends, under any circumstance, to retain control of this region which he acquired after the Persian Gulf war.

At the end of the session, the five members of the Security Council called for acceptance by all Middle East countries for international control over their nuclear activities. [passage omitted] However, the outstanding question that remains is whether or not Israel's atomic installations are also going to be subjected to this inspection and control? And, have all countries sought atomic technology with military usage in mind? Evidently the majority of the region's countries which are about to acquire atomic technology, wish to use it not for military but for economic objectives.

In any case, despite the fact that the above mentioned countries are the biggest producers and exporters of weapons in the world and even if their military industries are flourishing, can a reduction in the sale and production of weapons be compatible with their objective of gaining global superiority and supremacy?

Paper Supports Call for Expatriates' Return

NC0407152291 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The Government's Duty!"]

[Text] Economics and Finance Minister Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Khamene'i, head of the Economics and Finance Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, took part in a recent T.V. debate on the topic of the return of the Iranian expatriates.

Actually the subject has been the theme of a controversy in Iranian media for the past two months after Dr. Nurbakhsh's trip to the U.S. and his meeting with about 800 Iranian expatriates there.

On his previous visits to U.S. (1989 & 90) Dr. Nurbakhsh had also met with the Iranians residing in the United States, but on his latest trip a greater number of the Iranian expatriates came to visit him, and also the Western media gave the event a much more comprehensive coverage.

In spite of the hot controversy that has been going on around the subject inside the country, unfortunately there has not yet been any careful analysis or a balanced evaluation of the issue. Part of this may be due to the fact that the issue has been turned into a political game, and

also because certain groups are trying to exploit it as an anti-government propaganda tool, claiming the revolutionary principles are being violated by inviting the Iranian expatriates back to the country. This is undoubtedly a totally distorted picture of the situation.

Many Iranians emigrated during or after the revolution, and later during the imposed war, for a variety of reasons. There are no reliable statistics, but it is estimated that the number of Iranians living abroad probably exceeds two million. Thus the issue would seem to be a critical one even by statistical standards, and any government should be concerned, for national even if not for ideological reasons, to find ways of encouraging its citizens to return home and not lose their identities in alien cultures.

What is more most of these emigres are highly skilled people, and in fact the industrialized nations have always been at attracting expert manpower from the developing countries. In other words the industrialized countries gather the fruit of all the expenses the Third World countries bear for the education of the best of their children.

Under the circumstances what is a government in a developing country to do? It is true that the return of the expatriates who have been away from home for long years will involve problems in the area of cultural adaptability. Also the economic connections of some of the wealthier expatriates with outside financial networks will require a lot of thought and planning on the part of the government. None of these considerations, however, should deter the government from its efforts at calling back the Iranians from all over the world back to their homeland.

Commentary on PLO Defeat in Lebanon

LD0607160991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0957 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following a few days of heavy clashes, during which around 80 people were killed and hundreds injured, the PLO announced that it agrees to the deployment of Lebanese army units east of Sidon for the region's security. On the basis of that agreement, the Palestinians are to withdraw their heavy and medium-sized weapons from the southern regions so that those weapons are withdrawn from Lebanon by the deadline set by the Lebanese Government for disarming the various paramilitary forces, which is next October. For its part, the government has agreed to enter negotiations in the future to discuss the social, political, and military situation of the Palestinians in the host country.

According to political experts, the PLO's acceptance of the Lebanese Government's proposals is, in reality, a surrender by the Palestinians. This is a result of the PLO's political isolation in regional and international circles to the extent that, unusually, no noticeable international or Arab reaction was seen following the deployment of Lebanese Army units against the Palestinians in the south.

Certain circles, however, believe that the Palestinian withdrawal into the Ayn al-Hulwah and Miyih Miykh refugee camps is a current necessity in the prevailing climate, since the internal developments in Lebanon, alongside the changes throughout the world and in the Arab region, do not call for any more interference against the program of the Lebanese Government.

Others believe that the PLO's reluctant compliance with the deployment of the army is due to the internal and organizational weakness of the Palestinians. They claim that the unsound performance of the compromising Palestinian leaders, and the recent announcement by Yasir 'Arafat in which he put aside anti-Zionist struggles, has strengthened the doubt and mistrust of the Palestinian people toward the PLO. Those who oppose compromise believe that the battle of East Sidon was the outcome of 'Arafat's steps to achieve short-term political goals and not as part of the struggle against Israel.

Another reason for the Palestinian surrender in Sidon is the backing that the Lebanese Government receives from Arab and other countries, including the United States of America, since the current government—under a national unity cabinet—is carrying out is program based on the al-Ta'if agreement.

At the same time, the deployment of the army is of utmost importance to the Lebanese political and diplomatic system, since that step not only reduces the military might of the PLO in Lebanon and the whole region, but also gradually reduces its political effectiveness in Lebanon. This in itself will end the period of a state within a state which was enjoyed by 'Arafat in Lebanon.

Considering this situation, Lebanon's rulers have justified the deployment of the army and the disbanding of the militias—whether domestic or Palestinian—by putting the recapture of the Jazzin heights from the mercenary Lahd forces at the helm of the government's diplomatic moves, and have announced on many occasions that their aim is to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 425. According to experts, this position will result in positive outcomes for future government programs.

Meanwhile, the Zionist regime is pretending that it is indifferent toward the internal situation in Lebanon. However, from the utterances of the Israeli authorities, who once again place emphasis on the freedom of military activity on Lebanese soil, it can be seen that the Jerusalem occupying regime will not withdraw from south Lebanon without world, regional, and even internal pressures. On the whole, one can say that the deployment of the army in these positions previously occupied by the Palestinians east of Sidon—which Western and Arab circles call a military victory for the Lebanese Government—will only be effective in solving

other internal problems if the government's diplomatic moves are coupled with the anti-Zionist struggle to free the south. This is the demand of the revolutionary forces and the majority of the people.

Daily Views U.S. Attitude Toward United Europe

NC0407143791 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 27 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Desperately Clinging to NATO]

[Text] President George Bush is confronted with a Europe which has become quite assertive, as it slowly edges toward greater political integration. With the evaporation of the communist threat, the dominant military influence previously enjoyed by the Americans in Europe now appears redundant.

The U.S. Government has given formal notice quite a few times to the EC that whatever new security arrangements Europe makes must not compete with NATO. The West Europeans have been talking about reviving the Western European Union (WEU), a military grouping set up in 1955 to defend Europe or creating a new military agency under EC control.

A recent U.S. warning was given when Secretary of State James Baker wrote to the EC's president saying that while the United States supports, in principle, revisions in European defense arrangements, these must "reinforce" NATO.

One defense minister, Norway's Johan Jorgen Holst, commented that American officials seemed intent that any new European defense structure should be subordinated to NATO, adding that this "simply is not on." Mr. Holst likewise made the observation that Washington's obsession is for the United States to be the sole superpower, unmindful of the emergence of an increasingly multipolar order.

For the White House, which has consistently failed to acknowledge that a changed world necessitates a reassessment of issues and a redefinition of objectives, the discussions on the future of Europe are still stubbornly tied to the Soviet threat. Quite obviously, for with this rationale, NATO, with its attendant U.S. military presence in the Old World, remains definitely vital. This thinking has compelled Bush to call for a NATO summit to review the future of the union. Already the alliance atmosphere has been altered by confusion about American intentions. Until recently the American complaint had been that the Europeans did not do enough for their own defense. Now, Washington is prone to saying that the Europeans want to do too much—that is, too much outside direct American influence.

Bush is trying to cling to an institution that has been a major instrument of American hegemony. The U.S. is setting out to fight for NATO's relevance and supremacy over such institutions as the European Community and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. But even if that effort succeeds, the nations of Western Europe, newly liberated from the Warsaw Pact threat, are unlikely to let NATO remain under American control.

In the end, even the White House will have to adapt to an altered world. Sought or unsought, new views have a way of asserting themselves. And, ironically, it seems the new world order refuses to fit into the mold of America.

Clandestine Radio Reports on Fighting in Baneh

NC1007183691 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, we have been informed about the successful conclusion of the operations conducted by the peshmergas of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan [DPIK] in Baneh. We know that this news, like the news of every other success scored by the peshmergas, gladdens the heart of all our Kurdish supporters and all freedom-seeking Iranians.

We would like to take a closer look at this military operation and note two of its salient features, one good and one bad. As you know, this episode in our party's struggle against the forces of the Islamic Republic began when a number of peshmergas from the Arbaba and Zemgiran forces assembled on the Bardajamad heights in Baneh. The antipopular enemy seized the opportunity this created to assemble its forces to strike at the children of the masses, in the hope of once again plunging several Kurdish families and all our Kurdish supporters into mourning. Fortunately, however, the hopes of the enemies of freedom were dashed and the antipopular forces received a nasty surprise.

The DPIK peshmergas, who have honed their skills throughout the 12 years of their armed struggle, realized the enemy was acting suspiciously, and so they struck with a swift and accurate attack on the enemy's positions. Their coordinated attack forced the enemy forces to flee, and all traces of their presence were removed from the Bardajamad heights. Casualties were inflicted upon the enemy, and prisoners and booty were taken. The peshmergas returned to their predetermined positions in triumph.

What can be more beautiful than a group of the children of a deprived and suppressed people risking their lives, renouncing a comfortable existence, making the mountains and valleys their home, and remaining alert night and day so that the enemy cannot inflict blows on them? What can be better than the popular forces' working together so that, despite the long hours of grueling combat with the armed forces of the enemy, they were able to inflict blows on the antipopular regime's forces without sustaining any losses themselves? This phenomenon was beautifully illustrated in the operations by the children of the Arbaba and Zemgiran forces in Baneh, and it is naturally a source of pride and rejoicing for all of us. We extend our sincere congratulations to our

combatant comrades, shake their brave hands from afar, hail them, and express the Kurdish people's gratitude to them.

Regrettably, however, this military operation and cause for celebration had an ugly and unfortunate side as well. A look at those killed during the reactionary enemy's attack on the peshmergas shows that they all came from two regions: Qorveh in Kordestan and Tabriz in Azarbaijan. What can one feel other than regret when one sees the brothers of the peshmergas, who have dedicated themselves to safeguarding the freedom and human dignity of the Kurdish people, in the uniform of an Islamic Revolution Guard, serving the regime as a mercenary to attack the peshmergas so that either he or they are killed? Do the peshmergas seek anything but the happiness of the Kurdish people, of which these misled people are also part, and do they receive any reward for their devotion and valor? Is it truly not a shame that in the 20th century, this century of ever-increasing knowledge, there can still be such ignorance that a Kurdish youth becomes a treacherous club in the hand of the enemies of the people and of his own nation?

It is also a source of regret that some of the children and residents of Tabriz—the city of uprising, the city of Sattar Khan and Baqer Khan, the capital of the National Government of Azarbaijan, and the ally city of Mahabad, the center of Kordestan—have fallen into the trap laid by the common enemies of the Kurdish and Azari peoples and traveled from Azarbaijan to Kordestan to persecute the children of the Kurdish people and die at the hands of their own brothers. Is it not tragic that the Azarbaijani children have so lost their way that they cannot differentiate between right and wrong, between friend and foe, and have fallen into the trap of the ruling hypocrites and traitors?

We hope that the outcome of the recent fighting in Baneh and other similar incidents will finally jolt these misled children from their deep sleep and prompt them to quit the ranks of the traitors and murderers and join the ranks of the people. The children of the Kurdish people, wherever they are, must open their eyes and take a good look around. They must recognize the deprivation and suppression being suffered by their people and turn their backs on the enemies, returning to the bosom of their nation. We hope too that the children of the Azarbaijani nation and of the other suppressed nations in Iran will realize the deprivations and tragedies being suffered by the Kurdish people, so that they understand where their real duty lies. They must recognize that their place is among the Kurdish peshmergas, not on the barricades against them, alongside the mercenaries of the reactionary clerical regime.

We hope that the day is not far off when we see the children of the suppressed nations in Iran not only refusing to participate in the regime's war against the Kurdish people, but also opening up new fronts against reaction and dictatorship in their own regions and uniting to cast off the yoke of backwardness and suppression.

Bahrain To Act as Bridge to Saudi Market

LD0907223891 Tehran IRNA in English 1307 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 9 July, IRNA—Iran and Bahrain here Tuesday reviewed the framework for their bilateral future cooperation as well as Iran's entry to Saudi Arabia's market through Bahrain.

The talks were held between the visiting Bahraini Minister of Commerce and Agriculture Habib Ahmed al-Qasim and head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines 'Ali Naqi Khamushi.

The two sides also discussed exchange of economic delegations, speeding up of visa procedures, establishment of direct flight and shipping lines, joint tourist and transportation companies, and investment in free trade zones.

Khamushi noted that at present problems between Iran and Saudi Arabia have been solved and that Bahrain would act as a bridge between the two countries.

"Iran is ready to dispatch its first trade-industrial delegation to Bahrain in October this year," Khamushi said.

The Bahraini official said his country would do its best to materialize Iran's entry into the Saudi market.

Al-Qasim also had a meeting with Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh in which the Bahraini minister underlined his country's willingness for expansion of industrial and commercial cooperation with Iran.

He also announced the readiness of Bahraini firms and companies to cooperate with the private sector in Iran and invited Tehran to take part in specialized and international exhibitions in his country.

Ne'matzadeh voiced Iran's preparedness for cooperation with Bahrain in all fields and expressed hope for effective bilateral cooperation in the future.

Al-Qasim, heading a delegation, arrived here Monday on a four-day visit aimed at strengthening mutual ties in various areas.

Pakistan

Commission To Ensure Economic Adherence to Islam

BK1007151291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] The government has set up a commission to bring the economy in line with the Islamic system. The step has been taken in connection with enforcement of the Shari'ah [Islamic law] Act 1991. The commission, which will be headed by M.A. Hanafi, governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, will comprise 11 members. The commission will recommend measures for enforcement of an economic system based on Islamic principles. It will

review laws regarding finance, tax collection, mobilization of [word indistinct], banking, insurance, or other similar activities or procedures in order to determine whether they are contrary to Islamic law. The commission will recommend measures to bring these laws, activities, and procedures in line with the Islamic economic system and supervise the process of eliminating interest from every sphere of economic activity in the shortest possible time. The commission will submit its reports regularly to both houses of parliament and give its opinion in response to queries received from the federal government in connection with the establishment of an Islamic economic system.

Protest Lodged With India Over 30 Jun Firing

BK1007155191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Pakistan has protested to India over the firing by Indian forces from near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir on 30 June. In this incident, the Indian troops had threatened the residents of (Pullas) and (Chowsi) villages through megaphones that they would set the people's houses on fire if they failed to vacate. As a result, about 150 of the 200 families in these villages vacated their homes. Immediately after that, the Indian troops began firing from near the Line of Control, causing large-scale damage to private property.

India's acting high commissioner was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad today and told that the Indian troops' action was totally unjustified and it constituted a flagrant violation of the Line of Control. Pakistan is exercising every possible restraint and hopes that the Indian Government will direct its military authorities to desist from such unprovoked aggressive actions which vitiate the atmosphere of bilateral relations.

Iranian Guards Corps Chief Holds Talks

LD1007104191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] The commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], currently in Pakistan, had separate meetings with Pakistan's chairman of the joint staff and with the chief of staff and armed forces commander in which they discussed bilateral ties and regional issues. Our colleague has dispatched a report in this connection:

Major-General Mohsen Reza'i, commander-in-chief of the IRGC, who came to Pakistan at the head of a high-ranking military delegation yesterday evening for a six-day official visit, met separately with Admiral Ahmed Sirohey, chairman of the joint staff, and General Mirza Aslam Beg, chief of staff and commander of Pakistan's armed forces, this morning.

At this meeting, Admiral Sirohey referred to the role and importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and said that the people and the government of Pakistan value highly their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we therefore deem it necessary that the ties between the two countries should expand in every field, particularly their defense ties. In the course of this meeting the two sides stressed the need to solving the region's problems, including the problem of Aghanistan with full unity and solidarity of the Afghan mujahidin.

Major-General Reza'i also met with Pakistan's armed forces commander, General Mirza Aslam Beg, this morning. During this meeting, which took place after a formal inspection of a military parade, the commander of Pakistan's armed forces referred to the need for cooperation and coordination between the two countries, particularly in military matters, and while stressing the need to take heed of arrogance's threats under the guise of a new world order and the disarming of the oppressed nations of the region, emphasized the significance of the further expansion of ties between the two Mulsim states of Iran and Pakistan. Also at this meeting, while rejecting the proposal to disarm the region's countries by global arrogance, the sides termed it as a conspiracy to make the Zionist regime stronger so as to dominate the Islamic countries. They discussed the need to adopt appropriate measures to combat this conspiracy.

Meets Religious Figures

NC1107055391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Mr. Mohsen Reza'i, the commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, who is currently visiting Pakistan, met with Shiite and Sunni clerics last night in Islamabad. Pakistani Shiite leader Allama Syed Sajid 'Ali Naqvi attended the meeting during which Reza'i spoke about the region's political-military situation.

Khad's 'Mass Destruction' Plan Uncovered

BK1007162991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] A federal agency has unconvered a Khad-conceived plan to hit sensitive targets in the country for mass destruction to create despondency and panic among the people. APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN], quoting official sources in Islamabad, said the plan was worked out at a high-level meeting of Afghan authorities held in Kabul some six weeks back. Lavish resources were allocated for its implementation. According to the sources, two real brothers—Mohammad Amin and Mohammad Ghulam—belonging to Dir District had been cultivated by Khad. After training them at the Khad headquarters in Jalalabad, they were launched for sabotage activity, like bomb explosion, to cause mass destruction in Pakistan. Their latest crime was an explosion at a bus stand at Charsadda in the NFWP [North-West Frontier Province] on 30th June last. On getting the clue with the help of local authorities, the federal agency successfully intercepted them while they were on a fresh mission of terrorism in

Peshawar and Islamabad. It succeeded in arresting Mohammad Ghulam who is currently under investigation.

The sources said in the same connection, Khad had planned the destruction of an express train between Peshawar and Nowshera in the third week of June last. Alertness of the agencies, however, helped to remove devices places between Peshawar City and Peshawar Cantonment railway stations just before Abasin Express Train was to pass. The sources further said in the past six months ending 30 June, 71 incidents of sabotage and explosions causing loss of life have taken place in the NWFP alone. Of these, 49 took place in tribal areas. These incidents were staged and initiated by Khad.

China To Transfer Defense Technology Package

BK1107075491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] China has agreed to transfer to Pakistan a complete defense technology package at one-fifth of the cost. Disclosing this in Taxila, a Pakistan defense spokesman said the package has been offered by China at a cost of $20 million which is only 20 percent of the cost in the international market. Our Islamabad correspondent Suresh Chopra understands that the heavy gun manufacturing project being set up at Taxila is expected to be commissioned by next month. The factory will manufacture guns for Pakistan's new Main Battle Tank known as Khalid and also 155-mm artillery gun.

Daily Notes India-Israel Scheme Against Pakistan

BK1007105391 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Jul 91 p 7

[By Dr. S.M. Koreshi]

[Text] I regret that my article is not so polite as the official statements and some editorials written on the presence of the Israelis in Srinagar. In them, respectful skepticism has been adopted towards the purpose of these Israelis. Of course, they are right. Unless someone would present a certificate from Israeli authorities, or a copy of official note (duly attested by Israeli consular officers) as authentic, how can such a bold statement be made that Srinagar has become a Mossad commandos' base? But sometimes fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

The facts that they are Israelis is now beyond doubt. Israelis have officially admitted that they are their nationals. In fact, an Assistant Director-General of Israeli Foreign Ministry is flying to New Delhi to discuss the matter with the Indian government.

Their number is equally mysterious. A large number is not questioned—a 100 were said to be tourists, and Kashmiri Mojahedin claim there are 350 Israeli commandos living in quarters in the Governor's House. Even 100 is too much for a tourist group in a highly disturbed area, the conditions of which have been reported by the world press. It is beyond common sense to accept that these days mass-scale tourism would be planned by foreigners. Normally foreign countries evacuate their nationals from disturbed areas and advise against visiting dangerous zones. This tourism to witness the Dance of Shiva in occupied Kashmir is too thin a cover to explain Israeli "tourists" visit to Srinagar.

They are certainly trained commandos, since two of them fought their way out by snatching arms from their captors, and then held an Imam and his family hostage when they ran to a nearby house to hide themselves, till Indian police rescued them. That they are accompanied by Israeli women makes no difference, as women are an essential part of Israeli forces and the Mossad.

Only sometime ago, Yasir 'Arafat had warned Pakistan that Pakistan's N-plant would be subjected to sabotage. Ms Benazir Bhutto had explained that this would not be done by Indians or Israelis, but from within. Now, Yasir 'Arafat has reliable information about Israeli plans only.

Since 1979, American press has carried reports that Israel (along with India) has plans to attempt an aerial "surgical strike" on Kahuta. Israel destroyed the Iraqi N-plant subsequently, but it continued to wait for its opportunity to find a suitable launching-site near enough Pakistan from where the aerial strike could be made. In 1983, Israel came to Sri Lanka ostensibly to help Colombo fight the Tamil insurgency, but really to get closer to Pakistan, in the hope that India would connive with it in this operation.

Now, India found Israeli experience of fighting Palestinian Intifada useful in combating Kashmiri freedom fighters. Both Israel and India are equally interested in destroying Kahuta, and India is also interested in destabilising Pakistan at this particular moment. It seems that RAW [Research and Analysis Wing, Indian Intelligence Agency] and Mossad entered into an agreement to jointly act against the Kashmiri freedom fighters (Mossad providing technical help) to destroy through sabotage the Kahuta plant and indulge in commando operations inside sensitive areas in Pakistan.

Israeli is found wherever there has been a situation of insurgency. Israeli pilots were in Vietnam, they were present in large number in Calcutta during the Bangladesh insurgency, they meddled in Lebanon (helped Phalangists Christian South Lebanese Army of Haddad, Chamoun's militia) in South Africa joined its regime in N-explosion experiments, were present in Biafra, fished in Iraq though Kurdish insurgency in the sixties and seventies etc. Now they are in occupied Kashmir.

Israel has achieved its cherished aim of obtaining a foot-hold as near Kahuta as could be possible, the Valley of Kashmir, from where they can infiltrate into Pakistan, and Indians are their partners in this enterprise. It is likely that these Israeli commandos include Israeli Jews who speak local languages like locals, because a large number of Jews from Karachi, Bombay, Calcutta and

southern India Cochin and Kerala, in particular emigrated to Israel, and have their relations here.

They can depend on receiving all kinds of information and assistance from within Pakistan, not only from locals but also from their Mossad agents under diploamtic over or otherwise.

Israel has recently shown a film in Israel in which the presence of Mossad's killer-squads has been admitted, who work under cover to murder Palestinian Intifada activists. This has not come as a surprise to experts. Killers-squads have been earlier murdering Palestinians and Arab scientists in Paris, Vienna, Rome and Oslo.

How long this RAW-Mossad cooperation has been going on, is not known. On 27 June, we only came to know of it by chance, but that is not the date on which it began.

Sri Lanka

Troops Repulse 'Massive Attack' by Tamil Forces

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[Text] Colombo, July 11 (AFP)—Government troops beat off a massive attack by Tamil guerrillas on a key army camp in northern Sri Lanka and the fighting left four soldiers and dozens of rebels dead, officials said Thursday.

A military spokesman here said troops Wednesday "repulsed and retaliated" against an attack by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas on the Elephant Pass base at the entrance to the northern Jaffna peninsula.

"We lost four of our men and 22 others were injured," said the spokesman, adding the rebels had pounded the strategic camp with mortar bombs.

"There is a lull in the area now. Considering the amount of firepower we used, there is certain to be a large number of LTTE men killed," the spokesman said. Another army officer said the LTTE dead were in the dozens.

Military officials said troops stationed inside the camp received help from helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft that bombed LTTE positions in the area, which is still under an indefinite curfew imposed Wednesday.

Officials also said that aerial strikes had destroyed four tractors packed with explosives and at least one armour-plated bulldozer used by the rebels.

"The Tigers were trying to ram their way through with tractors and bulldozers," an official said, describing the operation as a "big attempt to overrun the camp."

Besides Jaffna District, the government Wednesday set indefinite curfews in neighbouring Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu regions and Vavuniya District further south to prevent LTTE reinforcements reaching Elephant Pass.

The renewed violence came three days after gunmen believed to be LTTE activists went on a rampage in an eastern village, butchering 27 Moslem civilians. The LTTE is fighting for a separate state in Sri Lanka's northeast.

Meanwhile, security forces Wednesday shot dead three Tiger guerrillas in eastern Ampara District, the military spokesman said, adding that troops had also detected eight abandoned rebel camps in coastal Trincomalee, further north.

At least 7,475 people have died in bitter fighting since June last year when fresh clashes broke out between government forces and the LTTE at the end of 14 months of unsuccessful peace talks.